

Yanked off of television

Dismal ratings, scarce advertisers force Paramount to cancel 'Dr. Laura' show.

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Before the rainbow

Bob Ross and gay historians reflect on the B.A.R.

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Falcon at 30

Porn, philanthropy, and classic 'Aspen' out on DVD.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 14 • 5 April 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Sharon Smith's lawyer incensed over comments by KGO radio host

by Ed Walsh

Lawyers for Sharon Smith, the partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, are considering legal action against KGO-AM 810 radio for what they consider "defamatory and inflammatory" remarks made by talk show host Christine Craft.

Craft said that Smith changed her story about the length of her relationship with Whipple and may have only lived with Whipple for as short as one month to three years prior to the mauling, not the seven years Smith claimed. Craft made the comments on her 10 p.m. show last Monday, March 26.

The comments infuriated Kate Kendall, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Kendall called Craft's remarks "reprehensible" and told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she is considering filing suit against the station on behalf of Smith. Kendall and Michael Cardoza are attorneys representing Smith in her wrongful death lawsuit against Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, the caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal January 26 attack.

Kendall said she phoned KGO's station manager demanding a retraction. Her office heard back from an attorney with ABC last week who said he would investigate the complaint. KGO is owned and operated by ABC.

"It's reprehensible she would say that in the midst of this tragedy," Kendall said. "It makes me angry and sad."

"We're not out here to prove a negative," Kendall added. "Diane and Sharon have lived together, have been together for seven years. [Craft] has absolutely not one iota of information to contradict that. Nor is she interested in gaining the true facts because the true facts aren't inflammatory."

"What she has engaged in, is obscenely disrespectful and beyond the pale of any journalism I've seen."

In a series of e-mail exchanges with the *B.A.R.*, Craft defended her on-air statements and said she didn't know how long Smith lived with Whipple.

"I don't know what the truth of the matter is," wrote Craft. "I don't see that a lawsuit lies from a talk show host saying she does not know what the truth is, do you?"

Craft cited *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Jaxon Van Derbeken as a source for her skepticism of the length of Smith and Whipple's relationship. She said Van Derbeken responded to her e-mail inquiry by e-mailing back that Smith told him she

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Kate Kendall

Crowd gathers to celebrate 30 years of the B.A.R.

by Cynthia Laird

Longtime readers, politicians, and the staff of the *Bay Area Reporter* held a festive celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the newspaper last Sunday, April 1 at Club Rendez-Vous on Polk Street in San Francisco. The party also honored columnist Sweet Lips, who has been writing for the paper since the first issue rolled off the press on April 1, 1971.

Over 100 people passed through the bar to offer congratulations, and many gazed fondly at the "wall of history" that one of the bar's owners, L. James Beales, put together. The wall featured some of the highlights of the paper's storied past, including writings by the late Harvey Milk, as well as memorable moments in local gay history.

"That's not me," quipped Mayor Willie Brown, when he saw his photo in an old Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club ad from November 1972, urging readers to vote for Brown for state Assembly. "I never had that kind of hair."

Brown, turning serious, then offered praise for the paper, crediting publisher Bob Rose with having the vision to get news and information to the city's gay and lesbian res-

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The crowd at the B.A.R.'s 30th anniversary party Sunday, April 1 at Club Rendez-Vous.

SF bids farewell to AIDS quilt

by Katie Szymanski

It was with sadness and excitement that community activists, elected officials, volunteers, and others affected by HIV/AIDS gathered at a South of Market loading dock last Friday, March 30 to say good-bye to the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which for 14 years has called San Francisco home.

The quilt, which is actually a collection of over 40,000 panels from various geographic regions, is now en route to its new temporary home in Atlanta. The staff of the Names Project – the nonprofit that oversees the quilt's

fundraising and exhibition – are heading toward their new home in Washington, D.C.

Given the political realities around AIDS these days, the ultimate goal is to find a permanent home for the quilt in Washington, where its presence in conjunction with the Names Project Foundation will allow more collaboration with groups like the National Association for People with AIDS and the AIDS Action Council. The San Francisco chapter of the Names Project – the local outlet for people to create and view smaller sections of the quilt – will remain in the city and in fact has just secured a more permanent home in the Castro.

The quilt's move will mean little to San Franciscans in terms of access – although housed in the city, it was constantly traveling in pieces around the country – but nevertheless the significance of one of San Francisco's babies leaving the nest drew dozens to a farewell ceremony. District Attorney Terence Hallinan, Supervisor Mark Leno, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, and Assemblyman Kevin Shelley were all on hand to relate their personal stories of grief and growth; Cleve Jones, the creator of the quilt, was present to reassure people that the move was a good decision; and the crowd that gathered was armed with chalk, turning the alley off Townsend Street into an impromptu panel of names of loved ones lost.

"Wherever the quilt is located, we will be there," said Jones.

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Gert McMullin hands over the final panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Mike Antosik from Vector Mayflower Moving, as the entire quilt moves to Atlanta.

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

COMMUNITY NEWS

SF supervisors tackle AIDS drug ads

by Katie Szymanski

As any smoker knows, the rugged Marlboro Man was based on an obvious fiction, for no heavy smoker could lasso several stampeding herds without losing his breath. Years later, cigarette advertisements have been banned from many venues, and an anti-smoking campaign has more realistically depicted the legendary cowboy with emphysema. Will HIV/AIDS drug ads soon meet a similar fate?

Many activists hope so, pointing out that no one with AIDS symptoms and/or HIV drug side effects is going to be scaling mountains or biking through the wilderness, despite the images that appear in ads for available treatments. In short, by using hot, buff men to sing the praises of several pills a day, drug companies are using sex to sell their products, activists say. And when it comes to HIV/AIDS, promoting sex and a healthy body after HIV infection is an equation that spells more unprotected sex, which of course

keeps AIDS drug companies in business.

In an attempt to break the cycle, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammann will be holding a hearing on Thursday, April 12, with the goal of banning such advertisements from bus shelters, subways, and city property unless the drug companies agree to devote equal space to promote condom use and prevention. Sparked by the findings of a recent San Francisco Department of Public Health survey that showed a

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Design chosen for Pink Triangle Park

by David Fraser

Community organizers have chosen a sculptural design of 15 triangular pylons for Pink Triangle Park in the Castro to commemorate Nazi persecution of LGBT persons.

The winning design by Robert Bruce and Susan Martin was chosen by a neighborhood committee from among five submissions. Organizers are raising funds to complete and install the sculpture.

The landscape-driven design features a series of stepped columns topped with pink triangles, aligned to mirror the triangular shape of the tiny park at the junction of Castro, Market, and 17th streets.

The proposal is a collaboration between Bruce and Martin, who have more than 50 years of creative experience between them, said Pauline Shaver, who has been active in the effort to transform the space.

Bruce has lived for 24 years in the Castro and for 30 years has been



Robert Bruce and Susan Martin's winning design for Pink Triangle Park.

a multidisciplinary design professional. He was a founding member of the Stop AIDS Project and designed its logo. He received his bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1975 from the University of Houston.

Martin has exhibited her sculpture in the Bay Area and New York. She received her master's degree in fine arts from the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1981, graduating with highest honors. Both artists have received awards for their work.

Gustavo Serina, another mainstay of the park project, said the

committee was impressed with the designers' sensitivity to the site and their ability to convey the theme of loss for pink triangle victims during the Holocaust period. He said they cited the noted sculptor Maya Lin's Vietnam memorial as an inspiration.

The call for submissions asked artists to design a memorial to queer victims of the Nazis that also took into account pedestrian safety, land use, and public health improvement at the site, cleaned up last year by volunteers with help from the city. ▼

Activist's plays hit the stage

by Katie Szymanski

How many queer activists does it take to assemble a creative script suitable for production? One, if that activist is Tommi Avicolli Mecca, a civil rights crusader who also happens to be a writer.

Avicolli Mecca will actually see two of his plays produced as staged readings over the next two weekends at the Jon Sims Center, the LGBT performing arts space in San Francisco. Both scripts were written while he was an artist in residence at the Sims Center, both are based in his home town of South Philadel-

phia, and both contain queer and/or political angles ripe for analytical discussion. The readings are directed by the award-winning Francesca Prada and feature professional actors from the Bay Area.

On Friday, April 6, and Friday April 13, the center will present "La Madonna Nera" (The Black Madonna), the story of a 15-year-old Sicilian/American girl in 1964 who sees visions of a dark-skinned madonna (common in Southern Italy and throughout the Mediterranean). Her visions set off a chain of events that tear open a terrible family secret.

On Saturday, April 7, and Saturday, April 14, the center will show

"The Aching in God's Heart," a tale about the conflict between family expectations and personal dreams. The script is from the perspective of a bilingual household on the edge of two different cultures.

Comments and critiques from the audience will follow each performance, and will help to shape these works in progress.

"I'm a fan of developing new work," said Prada. "It's nice to work with a living playwright, and I'm fortunate to be working with a great cast as well."

The performances are at 8 p.m. at the Sims Center, 1514 Mission Street (near Van Ness). Admission is \$5-10 sliding scale. ▼

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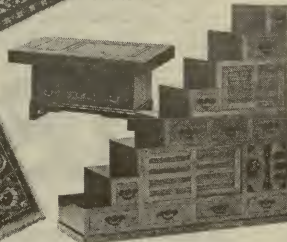
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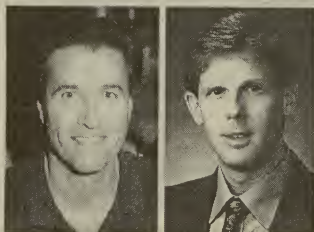
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Scholar Bérubé receives award

by David Fraser

Author and independent LGBT scholar Allan Bérubé will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Monette/Horwitz Trust, for his groundbreaking and ongoing research into LGBT history, the trust's advisory committee has announced.

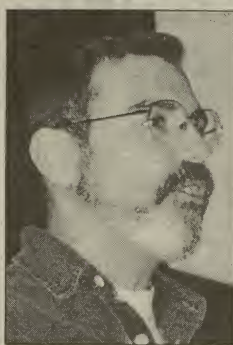
Bérubé will be honored at the Lambda Literary Awards banquet in Chicago on May 31.

The trust cited his work which "helps give a true picture of the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender communities and helps to fight homophobia."

Research and scholarship awards will be presented to psychologist, activist and researcher Karen Franklin, who is also an adjunct professor in Alameda, performance artist/filmmaker Jeff McMahon, and scholars Anthony D'Augelli and Letitia Anne Peplau.

The Monette/Horwitz Trust said it was "particularly pleased to give this award for [Bérubé's] ongoing research, since the provider of the award, Paul Monette, gave as an example of work to be awarded that of Bérubé."

Before author Monette's death from AIDS in 1995, he established the trust to help researchers and



Allan Bérubé in 1997

writers in the LGBT communities. The trust recognizes and supports research and scholarship to combat homophobia. It is also named for Monette's lover, Roger Horwitz, who succumbed to AIDS in 1986.

The announcement cited Bérubé, who is now based in New York City but who once lived in San Francisco, as a "spearhead in the fighting of homophobia based on distorted histories and viewpoints toward the community." The award is for \$7,500.

Gays in World War II

Bérubé's pioneering research

was published in *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two* (Free Press, 1990). It is a social history based on oral interviews, declassified government documents, letters, and diaries. It was adapted into an award-winning documentary film for television, produced and directed by Arthur Dong.

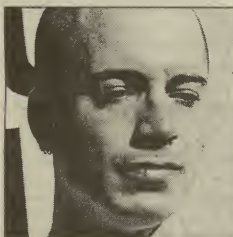
Bérubé began his research when there were few academic programs funding such work and before the publishing world discovered lesbian/gay studies as a market. He is also a MacArthur fellow (1996-2001).

Bérubé's recent research is expected to be published by Houghton-Mifflin as *Dream Ships Sail Away: A Gay Odyssey Through the Golden Age of Luxury Liners*. The book is a narrative history about how cooks and stewards who worked on passenger liners created one of the most democratic, multiracial, and pro-gay unions in the United States.

A documentary slide presentation, "Lesbian Masquerade: Women Who Passed as Men in Early San Francisco," was given by Bérubé for the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project. He has also testified at congressional Armed Services Committee hearings on exclusion of gays from the military. ▼

ACT UP/SF members sentenced

by Cynthia Laird



David Pasquarelli

Three members of the AIDS dissident group ACT UP/San Francisco were sentenced Tuesday, April 3, in connection with their convictions last month stemming from a disruption at an AIDS treatment forum sponsored by Project Inform last year.

Todd Swindell and David Pasquarelli, who were found guilty of misdemeanor charges of un-

lawful public assembly, rioting, and disturbing the peace, were sentenced to 120 days in jail by Superior Court Judge Thomas Mellon. Mellon sentenced ACT UP/SF member Michael Bellefontaine, who was convicted of unlawful public assembly, to 60 days in jail. All three men were fined \$1,000 each.

Defense attorneys immediately appealed the sentences, thereby halting imposition of the jail time until further court review. ▼

AIDS Quilt

◀ page 1

ploy it," said Jones. "It is ... a weapon made of love to fight against the epidemic."

It was Jones who first conceived of the Names Project during the annual Harvey Milk/George Moscone Memorial March in San Francisco in 1985. Jones had asked march participants to post the names of loved ones lost on the side of the federal building, and suddenly the image of a giant outstretched quilt appeared. He sewed the first square, in memory of his best friend, in 1987, and packed up the last panel into a big rig truck headed south to mark last Friday's rite of passage.

Jones told the *Bay Area Reporter* that while he is sad to know that the quilt is no longer in San Francisco, it never really stayed in the city, "or else we wouldn't be doing our job."

"The facility on Townsend was little more than a holding center," said Jones. "The quilt is always out being displayed somewhere."

The quilt also is always growing and never quite together in one place, which means that San Francisco will still have a place to create and show its latest efforts, and will still be a place where geographically relevant panels will come for exhibit.

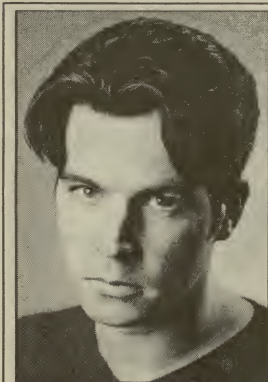
In the short term, said Jones, he is looking forward to the Atlanta move, particularly because it will help to engage African American

leadership with the AIDS quilt.

"We are taking every step we can to make sure the quilt is useful to the black community," he said, noting that the Names Project and the National Minority AIDS Council will hold a vigil and quilt display in Washington, D.C. on December 3.

"It's a good move for the quilt," said Jones. "I'm sad it's leaving. But we have to put strategy above sentiment, and that's what we're doing here." ▼

For more information on the quilt, including updated addresses and news of future displays, the Names Project recommends continued visits to www.aidsquilt.org.



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Party to benefit transgender activist

by Katie Szymanski

Whether you've worked on a campaign, sought help for tenant issues, or protested local and global injustice, the chances are you have Robert Haaland to thank for making your experience easier.

Haaland, an outspoken progressive activist, spends his days working for the Housing Rights Committee and devotes his free time organizing demonstrations, attending advocacy meetings, and volunteering for political efforts like the races of Supervisors Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, and Tom Ammiano. Although he has never asked for anything in return, the community is invited to give their thanks at Haaland's 37th birthday bash this Saturday, April 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. Suggested donations are \$10-25, which will help to fund Haaland's long-awaited top surgery, a procedure that is necessary for his identity as a transgender man.

Although a benefits package for city employees who are transgender was tentatively approved earlier this year, it still must be passed by the Board of Supervisors and does not affect workers who are not municipal employees. Most people still cannot afford the very basics like surgery, which carries a hefty price tag, particularly for FTMs. Many trans folks there-



Robert Haaland

fore rely on the community to get the services they deserve.

Haaland, who has wanted surgery for a number of years but could never conceive of how to pay for it, was inspired by a similar fundraising party for an FTM

that was held last month.

"The new city policy is a huge step, but the rest of us are still trying to figure out how to function in a health care system that does not provide benefits for surgery," said Haaland. "I realized that I have a pretty supportive community of people who would be willing to help me, and I've received an amazing response. It's hard for trans people to reach out for help, and that's exactly why we should do it."

Haaland's birthday fundraiser will be held at the Housing Rights Committee, 427 South Van Ness, at 15th Street. Speakers will include Veronika Cauley, board member of the Harvey Milk Club; James Green, founder of Female-to-Male International; and Karlyn Lotney, aka Fairy Butch. To RSVP, or for more information, please contact Saskia at (415) 826-4723. ▼

SF office for Victory Fund

by David Fraser

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which works to elect queer candidates, will open its western regional office in San Francisco this Monday, April 9, located at 953 Mission Street.

The Fund, headquartered in

Washington, D.C., seeks to elect "exemplary openly gay and lesbian candidates" to local, state and federal offices throughout the country.

Its western office will serve Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The phone number is (415) 512-1730. ▼

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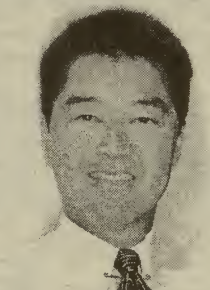
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Volume 31, Number 14
5 April 2001**PUBLISHER**
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Looking back

Thirty years ago this week, a new gay newspaper started appearing in gay bars throughout San Francisco and the East Bay. The *Bay Area Reporter* had its roots in the gay bar scene, but over three decades the paper has grown into one of the most widely read gay newspapers and has added immeasurably to the political strength that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community has gained since April 1971.

During those early years, the gay community had a tougher struggle just to survive. San Francisco was hardly the tolerant city it is today toward the LGBT community. Gay bars were raided frequently for no reason other than to harass the patrons and bar owners. There were no gay elected officials here until Harvey Milk won a seat on the Board of Supervisors in 1977; little did we know that he would be shot dead the next year. Dan White, the disgruntled former supervisor who assassinated Milk and Mayor George Moscone, received a lenient prison sentence for the crimes, and that sparked probably the angriest and most violent demonstration the gay community here has ever witnessed, with the White Night Riots.

Another tense time for gays in the city came during a demonstration by AIDS activists in the Castro in October 1989 when overzealous police reacted violently toward demonstrators and many were injured during what became known as the "Castro Sweep."

Yes, there were riots and protests and boycotts of companies that discriminated against gays or who supported right-wing causes.

There were good times too. Gays and lesbians began winning elected office in San Francisco and other cities around the Bay Area. Over time, many companies started implementing non-discrimination policies to provide a measure of equality to gay and lesbian employees. Gay political clubs formed as a way to express our strength in numbers. The city's gay Pride Parade grew into a celebrated event, and some years even the politicians fought amongst themselves to have a better position in the parade lineup. Over the years the community became a powerful voice for other gays in other cities, inspiring many to

either move to San Francisco or take the cause for equal rights back home.

More recently, gay families have become much more visible, and gay and lesbian parents are organizing and demanding equal rights. Queer youth are coming out at an earlier age than ever before, forcing the issues of homophobia and anti-gay bias to the forefront of school districts across the country.

Through it all, we have been here, providing news by, about, and for the LGBT communities, and occasionally, making news ourselves, such as that week in August 1998 when there were no obituaries for the first time in the paper since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

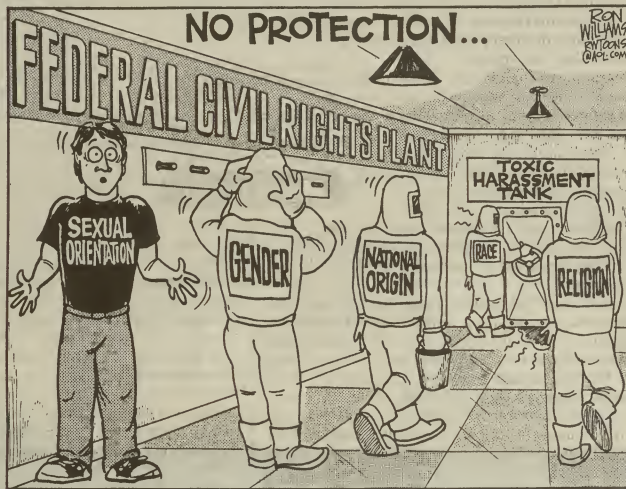
The advent of AIDS provided another important mission for the paper: to get useful and important information out to gay

men who were being vilified by the mainstream media. As HIV prevention and AIDS service organizations were formed, we chronicled those beginnings and let people with AIDS know where they could go for help. Of course, sometimes we've been critical of some of those organizations, especially around financial issues, but it's only because of a firm belief that everyone living with HIV/AIDS should have access to services; and unfortunately, even now, 20 years into the epidemic, some still have nowhere to go, and some are still losing their jobs or their housing.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their work in getting the paper out every week, and to our readers, who make it point to pick up the paper each Thursday. As we pause to look back over the years, we'll keep moving forward — to keep the community informed. ▼



Editorial



Thirty years and counting ...

by Jeff Sheehy

It's a funny thing, this *Bay Area Reporter*, just a community newspaper. After all, who reads it? One might wonder what Bob Ross and Paul Bentley had in mind when they started the paper 30 years ago, but the impact of the paper is much larger than most people think.

Enlightening, energizing, irritating, thought provoking, frustrating, and sometimes tear inducing, this paper has been anything but boring. Though I had read the *B.A.R.* for years, I really experienced the importance of the *Bay Area Reporter* through political work — first as president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and then as founder of Equal Benefits Advocates and organizer of the successful boycott of United Airlines.

If as Milk Club president, I misstepped — and I did, I read about it in the *B.A.R.* If I wanted to organize a demonstration against Pat Buchanan or the Defense of Marriage Act, I went to the *B.A.R.* A story would appear, people would come, and the action would be a success.

The story of the equal benefits ordinance, in particular, illustrates the importance of the *B.A.R.* As Geoff Kors, Carol Stuart and I set about creating, passing, and defending this historic law, we came to rely on the *B.A.R.* as the most accurate and most effective means of disseminating information about our efforts to the community. When we first introduced the measure, initial reactions from the mainstream media were skeptical. They viewed this law — which required businesses with city contracts to give domestic partners of employees the same benefits that spouses of employees received — as merely an additional regulatory burden on businesses. The *B.A.R.* told a different

story, one of equal pay for equal work and of civil rights denied.

When United Airlines sued to overturn the law, we called for a boycott of United. Mainstream media scoffed, searching out queer quislings to say that the boycott would only hurt gay employees of United. They were loath to even cover the boycott story. Mainstream accounts focused solely on the legal issues, parroting United's argument that it should not be bound by local laws even though the judge never gave that argument much credence. Those stories downplayed our right to equal pay for equal work and workplace non-discrimination. When United was joined in its lawsuit by Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, mainstream accounts omitted the association and still refrained from identifying homophobia as a motivation for United's intransigence.

Luckily, the gay press, led by the *B.A.R.*, gave a voice and a forum to organize nationally. The boycott spread, with many people refusing to fly United. Letters and e-mails bombarded United's CEO, and buttons and stickers were worn by passengers who could not avoid flying on United. The *B.A.R.* stood with us reporting every single demonstration from the first picket line in front of United's Union Square ticket office in June of 1997 to the last one, the takeover of United's downtown ticket office by costumed Tinky Winkies in July of 1998. By the end of the summer of 1998, United had capitulated, giving full domestic partners benefits to all of its lesbian and gay employees worldwide. The public pressure for equal benefits was so great that American Airlines and US Airways followed suit almost immediately.

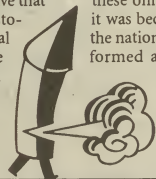
But, where did this pressure come from? Certainly, the legal artistry of Dennis Aftergut and his team working at the direction of Louise Renne, San Francisco's city attorney, was one end of the vise. But that lawsuit continues, with United still suing the city to abolish the law.

Why did they fold and give the benefits irrespective of the outcome of the lawsuit? The court had ordered them to give just travel benefits and bereavement leave, and these only to SF-based employees. Clearly, it was because LGBT communities around the nation and even internationally were informed and agitated about the issue by community publications. The *B.A.R.* would run an editorial or a story on Thursday and by Sunday I would have received calls and e-mails from Chicago, or Denver, or Boston alluding to the piece that had run and offering help. After one editorial that

posted to the Web, I was contacted by OUT-RAGE!, a group of British activists that then organized a London action against United. We simply could not have won this victory if the *B.A.R.* had not existed.

I have mentioned this experience, but it is only one of many. No one has really measured the effect of community newspapers like the *B.A.R.* They are free, seemingly ubiquitous, but absolutely vital to the health of a community. The *B.A.R.* has, over the years, recorded our lives, our hopes, our dreams, and our memories. It has resolutely endeavored to report and register the lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons, and our community together in the face of persistent, and often successful, attempts by others to erase us from the pages of history. Thank you for 30 years, we need there to be many more! ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Turn out the lights

What better way for the city and county of San Francisco to mark the completion of the 20th year of the AIDS epidemic than to shut off the floodlights at City Hall and all other civic buildings for a week or even a month ["Activists see red over ribbon plan," March 29]? This would truly mark the darkness in which we are still traveling. I would propose that this be done in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. as well.

Jeffrey P. Braff
San Francisco

Ribbon on the hill?

During Pride weekend we have that terrific laven-der triangle on Twin Peaks. It can be seen everywhere. Why not a red ribbon up there for the AIDS anniversary?

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

Sunny days are here again

Elizabeth Goldstein, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department general manager, has decided to enforce Park Code 4.01(h) at city parks and pools. This ordinance dates from the 1940s and requires women to be covered from upper chest to upper thigh and men from the waist to upper thigh. Swimsuits featured on MTV's *Spring Break* will get you a ticket and \$10 fine. A low cut bikini top, a men's or women's thin cut bottom, or worst of all, a thong bathing suit, will get you arrested.

On August 30, 2000, Ms. Goldstein advised, "I will personally see that a request to enforce 401(h) is passed along to the San Francisco Police Department."

Oh, it should be noted that if you wore that same outfit on a city sidewalk, the police would defend your right to be appropriately dressed. (Why Rec. and Park needs a separate dress code from the rest of San Francisco is a good question.)

There are probably two reasons for Ms. Goldstein's decision.

First, the Park Code has been used to move the homeless out of places like the Civic Center (no overnight camping). Quite correctly, Ms. Goldstein cannot enforce only part of the Park Code.

Second, enforcement would have gone into oblivion except for a few Rec. and Park employees. Two or three years ago women started showing up at city pools in thong bathing suits to the great delight of the male lifeguards. When men wore the same type of suit they were kicked out and threatened with arrest. Rather than get with the 21st century, Rec. and Park decided to enforce the 1940s dress code. It also gave lifeguards a nifty tool to hassle lesbian and gay swimmers for sport and pleasure.

Now, the consequences of Ms. Goldstein's decision are probably threefold. First, she has squarely aligned San Francisco with Bible Belt morality; second, she threatens to take the fun out of events like Bay to Breakers, Carnival, and gay Pride; and third, she has set herself and Rec. and Park employees as the morality/fashion police of San Francisco.

If you like what she has done, give your supervisor a call, or better yet, show up at a city swimming pool in a thong bathing suit.

Larry Trask
San Francisco

Gay but not queer

What is extra sad along with the resurgence of the hate word "queer" is watching gay history being hijacked, rewritten, and distorted.

In 1969, a guy who eventually murdered someone else, screamed "queer" over and over as he tried to kill me. Several months later, I heard the word "gay" for the first time. I soon found out that gay was a positive word that made haters feel uncomfortable. When people choose to call themselves gay, they choose not to be victims.

When I moved to San Francisco in 1970 at age 19, the word "gay" was as inclusive, festive, cutting-edge punk, and fabulous as you could get. Gay meant diversity, community, and cultural cross-pollination, and to me and others, it still does.

The "sensual" left of the 1970s was replaced by a busbody "no fun" left. As if life were not difficult enough, the no fun lefties joined forces with the haters by insisting that gay people be called "queer" again. What a right wing think tank idea. If they want to call themselves queer, fine, but when gay people call others "queer" it is still a vicious, divisive, alienating, and abusive hate word.

Don't we have too many Trent Lotts, Rush Limbaughs, and Dick Armeys already?

Jamie Rein
San Francisco

Honoring Cesar Chavez

I commend Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval for opening the discussion of honoring Cesar Chavez. Chavez was a great man and declaring a day in his honor is a good start. Giving city employees another paid holiday where they get double time if they show

up for work and paid if they don't, is not a good idea and does not honor Cesar Chavez. Most city departments are exceeding their budgets annually because of excessive overtime and giving them another paid holiday will only compound this problem. If the city is considering spending \$4.3 million annually in overtime pay to honor Cesar Chavez, I could think of a dozen better ways that would truly honor his memory and his work.

There is a triangular lot on the northeast corner of Cesar Chavez and Mission streets. The city could acquire that lot as a park with a life size statue of Chavez, so people could walk up and relate to the man. There could be a vandal-proof video monitor with a short film of his life. The enormous billboard on that lot could be dedicated to his memory and causes that he supported. Or it could be taken down in his memory thus reducing billboard blight. A full-time docent could be at the park, maintaining the landscape and talking to visitors of Chavez's life. The city could provide scholarships at Stanford to 80 children of immigrant farm workers for less than a million dollars annually. If these students became lawyers, teachers, social workers, etc. serving the needs of immigrant workers, the memory of Cesar Chavez would be greatly honored.

I write this letter to stimulate public discussion of cost-effective ways to truly honor this great man.

Jim Reid
San Francisco

A rap on columnist

I am a 50-year-old white guy who hasn't been to a dance club in years, but even I know Victoria Brownworth is full of caca (letters, B.A.R. March 2).

I don't know which I find more disheartening, the blind xenophobia she so proudly proclaims, or her total lack of respect for Mr. Hardy (a widely read writer and intellectual) as seen by her unwillingness to understand or respond to the points he makes.

Homophobia is "basic to the majority of rap"? Ms. Brownworth is going to have to work hard to convince several hundred queer rap and hip-hop musicians and DJs, or the hundreds of thousands of LGBT people who enjoy this music, that they are all ignorant or brainless and that they should avoid this sneaky and vicious musical form. As for the "black leaders" who campaign against this music, Ms. Brownworth might want to consider the campaigning of "white leaders," including numerous clergy, against Elvis Presley in the 1950s, the Beatles in the 1960s, numerous counter-culture rock musicians in the 1970s, and punk rockers in the late 1970s and 1980s. But then I doubt this woman, who just "reports the facts," is going to rethink her position. I don't know Brownworth and will refrain from name-calling, but this issue isn't just about misogyny and homophobia, it's also about blind and irrational racism.

By the way Victoria, I'm wondering who the "we" is you state you listen to this music with, and why they feel it necessary to make their suggestions known through you?

Willie Walker
San Francisco

'Corrupt party' cost Dems

I am so tired of hearing Democratic Party hacks blame Nader for George W. usurping the White House, as Wayne Friday does (yet again) in the March 29 B.A.R. Is Nader responsible for the wholesale systematic disenfranchisement of African Americans in Florida and elsewhere? Did Nader purge the electoral roles of legitimate black voters? Did he throw up the roadblocks? Is he responsible for the fact that punch-card machines, which are much more error-prone than optical scanning systems, are used more in areas where low-income people and African Americans vote? Did Nader appoint any of the racist and partisan Supreme Court?

I voted for Al Gore because I disagreed with Nader about the differences between Gore and Bush, although my political positions are much closer to Nader's than Gore's. I was afraid of exactly what is happening now with W. in the White House, so I swallowed hard and voted Gore. However, Gore lost the presidency not because of Nader, but because of the coup d'état in Florida and the simple fact that millions of voters could not bring themselves to hold their noses and vote for the lesser of two evils yet again. Gore took positions that alienated too many voters - he is the only one responsible for that. It's a painful wake up call.

Nader and the Greens didn't spoil the election. Using them as scapegoats only allows us to ignore the Democratic Party's complicity in the disenfranchisement of African Americans. (Where was the outrage?) Gore is a shitty politician in a corrupt party that has little other than big business interests in mind. Where I agree with Wayne Friday is that Resident Bush and the Republican Party are worse.

Rob Petitpas, Chair, LGBT Committee
National Lawyers Guild, San Francisco

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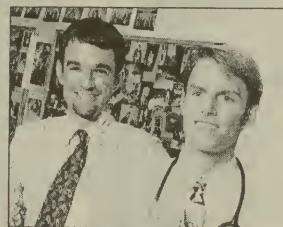
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No conflict here?

I was amused to read the two letters in response to Joe Capko's recent letter regarding Chris Daly's proposed TIC legislation (Mailstrom, March 22). One letter was written in defense of Robert Haaland and signed by Tommi Aviccoli Mecca and Rebecca Logue-Bovee. The other letter was written in defense of Chris Daly's proposed legislation and signed by Vince Pietromartire.

It is interesting to note that Robert Haaland, Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, and Rebecca Logue-Bovee are all on the payroll of the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, i.e., they are all paid professional activists on the public dole. And Vince Pietromartire is a "volunteer" at the same organization.

Appears to me that these people may be more concerned about maintaining their livelihoods on the taxpayer's money than they are to helping the majority of average San Franciscans achieve their dream of home ownership.

Tom Ramm
San Francisco

Separate but equal

As Vermont lawmakers who oppose the state's landmark civil union law suffered a setback in their attempts to formally outlaw same-gender marriage, it is slowly beginning to dawn on both sides that a constitutional conflict exists that could plunge the state into an all-out conflict over the issue.

On the one hand, Article 7 of the Vermont Constitution clearly prohibits the state from playing one group of Vermonters against the other in the awarding of "common benefits." This means that in the absence of a constitutional amendment, the lawmakers cannot deny to same-gender couples the benefits of marriage enjoyed by opposite-gender couples.

On the other hand, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution just as clearly prohibits "separate but equal," state-imposed segregation. This means that there can be only one system of legally sanctioned marital partnerships — and that system is marriage.

With the passage of the civil union law, Vermont now has an unconstitutionally segregated system of legally sanctioned partnerships. Same-gender couples are still barred from obtaining marriage licenses. But at the same time, opposite-gender couples are barred from obtaining civil-union licenses.

Because of this new form of segregation, both statutes are vulnerable to being struck down by a federal court — forcing the Vermont Legislature to enact a new marriage statute that, under Article 7 of Vermont's gender-neutral Constitution, must disregard the gender makeup of all couples who are eligible to marry.

Anti-gay opponents will surely put up a passionate fight, insisting that the lawmakers "listen to the people." But every member of the Vermont Legislature is legally bound by their oath of office to support, uphold, and obey both the U.S. and Vermont constitutions, regardless of the popular will. So whether they like it or not, the lawmakers are eventually going to have to come up with a better system of marital partnerships than the segregated system we have now. And it's better that the lawmakers do it on their own initiative than to be forced to do so by a federal court.

Skeeter Sanders
Essex, Vermont

Help needed for binational couples

I'm asking for your personal and immediate help on a congressional bill that directly affects my life.

I have lived with my partner, a German citizen, for the past eight years. When his work visa expired in February 2000, he had to leave the U.S. As you can imagine, this forced separation has caused us both a great deal of emotional pain and financial hardship. Our situation is not unlike that affecting thousands of other same gender binational couples around the country (described online at: <http://home.pacbell.net/donoharm/advocate.htm>).

Among heterosexual binational couples, U.S. citizens can marry their foreign partners and then apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for immigration permission (a "green card") for their partner. Because same sex marriage is not yet legal, this option is closed to me and Bernd and thousands of others.

To remedy this, on February 14, New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, who describes current U.S. policy of forced separation of binational same sex couples as "gratuitously cruel," introduced a bill (HR 690, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act) to allow gay and lesbian citizens to sponsor their foreign partners for U.S. immigration. If this bill passes, more than 60,000 people could benefit by petitioning for their partners.

Please write a letter to your congressperson in Washington now and ask them to support HR690, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. Write a second letter to your U.S. senator urging him/her to introduce a companion bill in the Senate. To find out who your congressmember and senator are, call (202) 224-3121, or log on to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

and <http://www.senate.gov/senators/index.cfm> respectively.

Key points to mention when contacting your Representative include:

a. Thirteen nations allow their gay/lesbian citizens to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration (Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia, France, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, New Zealand, Belgium, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden). There's no reason for the U.S. to lag behind in recognizing basic human rights for its gay citizens.

b. Alan Greenspan officially supports increased immigration as a key to keeping our economy booming. He favors increasing the H1B cap, the number of work permits that allow foreigners to work here for a specific time. Because many partners of gays are here on this type of permit, allowing them to come in under the Permanent Partners Immigration Act would free up additional H1B work permits.

c. The INS purports to promote family unity. It is important that the agency include families of gay and lesbian U.S. citizens, giving them the same rights in immigration matters as heterosexual families enjoy.

To track this bill's progress, or to see the wording, log on to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and type "HR 690" into the "search by bill number" space at the top.

Tim Sally
San Francisco

Appreciates columnist

As a San Francisco resident since 1982, I wanted to let you know that Wayne Friday's column is one of the things I look most forward to. I don't consistently agree with his politics, as I find him a little conservative sometimes, and more supportive of Dianne Feinstein than she deserves. However, I usually save his column as the last item to read in the *Bay Area Reporter*, just so that I can end my reading on a high note.

Mr. Friday has an excellent sense of humor, and his criticisms of Republicans are very much appropriate. I don't understand why no one calls them the "Uncle Tom" Log Cabin Republicans.

Thank you for your integrity and insights. I hope that you continue to write for many years to come.

Tony Jasinski
San Francisco

Stop animal research

For many reasons, use of animals for AIDS research should be stopped. Young primates, abducted from their natural habitats, often witness the slayings of their mothers before being crammed into cages or crates. During transport, the animals are forced to endure temperature extremes, deafening noise, and lack of ventilation. At research laboratories, primates, dogs, cats, and other animals are subjected to solitary confinement, lack of exercise, mutilation, and/or injections of disease or toxic chemicals.

Even small dissimilarities between species in the cellular level result in major differences in the cause and treatment of a disease. Albert Sabin, one of the creators of the polio vaccine, maintained that "what has been demonstrated up to now concerning AIDS research with animals is that it does not have any relevance to humans." The director of AIDS research at a southern university concurs that "animals are not optimal models." According to Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, "chimpanzees and other animals have contributed nothing to progress in AIDS research that could not have been gained in other ways."

Using irrelevant models has hindered progress. The pharmaceutical establishment tested protease inhibitors on dogs and rats. The drugs shut off the flow of bile to the liver, causing painful deaths for the animals.

The experimenters concluded it would be unethical to test protease inhibitors on humans; consequently from 1989 until 1993 the protease inhibitor program was dropped.

But thanks largely to research developed by computer models and studies of human volunteers, we now rely on protease inhibitors to increase life expectancy for many people with AIDS.

The millions of dollars our government spends annually for animal use in AIDS research funnels scarce research funds away from more humane and reliable approaches.

Today's most effective treatments for HIV resulted not from animal experimentation, but from increasing our knowledge of how HIV locks into and penetrates human cells.

As Steve Simmons, a spokesman for People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, who died of AIDS four years ago, wrote shortly before his death: "Living with AIDS has only strengthened my conviction that torturing animals has nothing to do with curing this disease."

Joel Freedman, Chair
Public Education Committee
Animal Advocates of Upstate New York
Canandaigua, New York

Dems meet, trash Bush, fret over future

by Wayne Friday

Democrats from across California met this past weekend in Anaheim (that's right, deep in GOP country - Orange County) and spent most of the three-day conference trashing the "illegal" Bush administration.

As the *Los Angeles Times* put it, it was "the best of times and the worst of times" for the California Democratic Party. The best of times in that the party has probably never been in better political shape - it holds a majority of the state's U.S. House members, both U.S. Senate seats, huge majorities in the state Legislature, all but one statewide constitutional office, and carried the state for Democrat Al Gore last November by 1.3 million votes.

Still, the "worst of times" could become a reality if the party in control of the state - the Democratic Party - doesn't soon figure out what to do about the burgeoning energy crisis. The very location of the Democratic confab spoke well about the success of recent Democratic Party elections. However, the fact that the lights were dimmed inside the convention hall during the speeches reminded the party faithful that they must clearly be concerned about where the energy crisis will take them during next year's state elections.

Gray Davis, the first Democrat to win the Statehouse in 16 years, used his convention speech to lash out at those Republicans who "offer partisan attacks" about his handling of the energy problem but "offer no constructive, comprehensive solution of their own to the problem that they created." Davis, always quick to remind Californians that the deregulation process came about under former Republican Governor Pete Wilson, attacked Republicans, critics in the media, and even some of his fellow Democrats who have been critical of his handling of the power problem.

Indeed, instead of celebrating their near hegemony in the state Capitol, many delegates were openly fretting that they might suffer a backlash from voters next year unless Davis can come up with a solution on the rolling blackouts and the soaring utility prices. Davis, who has consistently said that he "questions" the necessity of higher electricity prices, seems to have backed off that position as he now tells reporters that he is "willing to look at" and consider the necessity now of possible higher prices for ratepayers.

Though the governor was long on his partisan blaming of Wilson and his administration for the current energy mess, he was short on specifics when it came to a solution as he addressed the convention in a Saturday speech. After the speech, however, Davis said at a news conference that he will reveal his plan for electricity rates in the "next two weeks" and it is expected that he will reverse his stand against rate increases. Again placing the blame on Republicans, Davis assured Democrats that the state will escape the power crisis "regardless of whether or not the

loyal opposition decides to help."

While Californians, already seeing skyrocketing electricity bills, wait for the governor's "solution," those attending the Democratic "victory" celebration meeting in Anaheim last weekend were clearly worried and the governor's speech Saturday was part of a mobilization effort intended to cut off a possible revolt in the face of rising electricity rates and rolling blackouts. Davis, who has reportedly raised nearly \$27 million in re-election campaign funds for next year, has yet to officially declare his 2002 re-election campaign, and to date, faces only minimal opposition in the person of

California Secretary of State

Bill Jones. Still a favorite to be re-elected,

but not nearly the shoo-in he was only months ago, Davis tried to assure Democratic Party loyalists that the state energy crisis will indeed be settled, saying "we've with-

stood natural disasters of biblical proportions - earthquakes, floods, fires, freezes, and droughts; my friends, we'll get through this as well."

Democrats, clearly nervous about the party's future, weren't sounding quite as positive. Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), considered by many as one of the state party's future stars, voiced the thoughts of many attending the convention when she quipped to reporters that "all California Democrats are shaking in their boots about the next election." California Republicans, with little else to feel good about, must enjoy watching Davis and company worry about this one.

Politics and people

Supervisor Mark Leno's "exploratory" campaign to replace termed-out Assemblywoman Carole Migden in the 13th District next year is getting a lot of attention; a number of diverse Democratic Party activists met last week to urge the popular Leno to seek the legislative seat.

Art Torres, one of the most likable politicians in either party, was unanimously re-elected to another four-year term as state party chair last week at the Democratic convention. Torres, already the party's longest-serving chair, keeps the job that now, due to passage of Proposition 34 last year, has more political clout than ever. Torres pledged to boost the Democrat state membership even more by luring voters from the state's conservative inland areas; he wants to tap voters from the state's fastest-growing counties as the party struggles to manage a growing power crisis and protect Governor Davis in his 2002 re-election bid.

As for the recent state Public Utilities Commission rate hikes, look for California consumer groups to soon launch an initiative for the 2002 ballot.

Los Angeles political analysts now tell me that it looks like City Council member Joel Wachs, that city's openly gay mayoral candidate, is running "out of the money" when it comes to this Tuesday's mayoral primary elec-



LA mayoral candidate Joel Wachs

tion; City Attorney James Hahn and the gay-friendly former Speaker of the Assembly, Antonio Villaraigosa look like they are headed to a June 5 runoff election there.

Former Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi is reportedly ready to challenge former Secretary of State March Fong Eu and Michela Alioto, the 1998 nominee for the post, for the Demo nomination for the secretary of state job in next year's primary. Another candidate for the seat is Assemblyman Tony Cardenas (D-Sylmar).

The big question last week around the Hall of Justice: Why would Jeff Brown, the popular former public defender, ever resign to take a job at the embattled Public Utilities Commission?

Happy right-wingers: George W. Bush's slightly right-of-center presidential campaign last year worried a lot of the GOP right-wingers, but it didn't take long for the appointed president to assure his ultra-conservative supporters. Case in point - the Reverend Jerry Falwell: "I told some of my unhappy conservative friends during the campaign to trust him, let him get elected; now, two months later, we are all very much rewarded." Incidentally, the "Bushism of the week" comes from the president's talk to Treasury Department workers. Bush: "The way I like to put it is this: 'There's no bigger issue for the president to remind the moms and dads of America, if you happen to have a child, be fortunate to have a child.'" (Duh.)

The doctor is out: The television program Dr. Laura officially tanked last week when production ended for the tumultuous Paramount TV talk show featuring the anti-gay Laura Schlessinger. In a statement, Schlessinger predictably blamed the cancellation on an advertiser boycott organized by gay rights groups over her past remarks characterizing gays as being "deviant" and "biological errors."

City Hall staffers are still buzzing about the near-fisticuffs between Mayor Willie Brown and rookie Supe Chris Daly; the two exchanged harsh words and nearly came to blows at a meeting about the homeless last week. There's no love lost between Daly and veteran Supervisor Leland Yee either, or so I'm told.

There are now three Asian American members of the state Assembly for the first time ever, exactly the number needed to form an official caucus, and As-

page 13 ►

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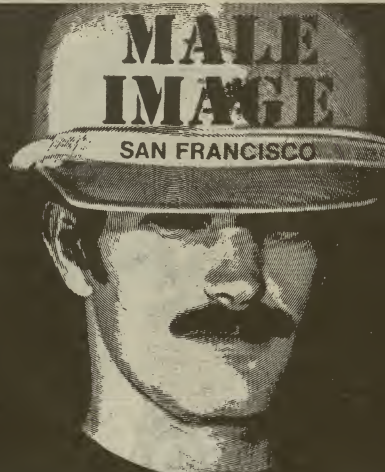


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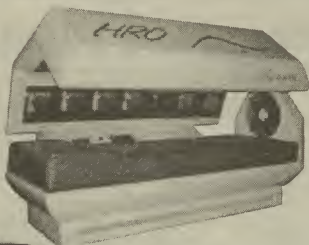
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So far, so okay

by Dale Carpenter

It's way too early to say I told you so, but 10 weeks into the administration of George W. Bush things are actually looking okay. Bush isn't about to campaign for same-sex marriage (neither did his predecessor) and he isn't going to lift the ban on gays in the military (ditto), but those who predicted gloom and doom for gays under a GOP-dominated government have so far been disappointed. And there have actually been some arguably positive developments.

You wouldn't know that from reading the fundraising letters or press releases of gay political organizations, which thrive on the fear of impending crisis. And you wouldn't know it from following the gay press, which is dominated by writers and editors who were bitterly disappointed by the election and want no part in giving even faint praise to Bush.

Consider some issues on which Bill Clinton proved most disappointing. Unlike Clinton, Bush did not campaign on a pledge to end the anti-gay military ban. The most that could be hoped for from Bush is a relaxation of the widespread, intrusive investigations into soldiers' personal lives that occurred during Clinton's administration.

That softening of the military ban may soon be on its way. A report recently released by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a watchdog and advocacy group that monitors harassment and official persecution of gays in the military, revealed that death threats, assaults, and verbal gay-bashing continued at high levels during Clinton's last year. "We are now at a crossroads," declared SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn. "The question is whether the Bush administration will do what the Clinton administration failed to do and enforce 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass,' with fairness and compassion."

Responding quickly to the report, the Bush administration vowed to issue anti-harassment

regulations aimed at curbing the abuse of gays. Until that's done, promised Rear Admiral Craig Quigley, "there should be no doubt in any service member's mind that their service does not tolerate harassment." Finally, someone in the federal government appears to be taking this problem seriously.

Bush is also doing better than Clinton, at least rhetorically, on the issue of same-sex marriage. Where Clinton exploited public disapproval of gay marriage for his own political gain, Bush is resolutely refusing to play demagogue on the issue.

In Vermont, the epicenter of the cultural and political conflict over legal recognition of gay relationships, state legislators have been considering an explicit ban on gay marriage. The bill is redundant since Vermont already bars same-sex marriage, but the issue has great symbolic importance for religious conservatives.

Thus, the controversy is tailor-made for cheap, anti-gay rhetoric of the kind GOP leaders have historically used to their advantage. The easiest thing in the world would have been for the new administration to praise Vermont legislators' heroic efforts to save the traditional family.

But no. Ari Fleischer, Bush's spokesperson, said the president would not take sides in the battle over same-sex marriage in Vermont, calling it a state issue. Pressed on whether the administration would at least voice some support for fellow Republicans in Vermont sponsoring the bill, Fleischer refused even to do that.

On yet a third issue of vital importance to many gays, AIDS, Bush is doing as well or better than Clinton. Some feared that funding for federal AIDS programs would be gutted by Bush. However, it appears Bush's proposed budget will not reduce the AIDS budget and may even increase funding above levels supported by Clinton. That really should not be surprising since the GOP Congress repeatedly increased AIDS funding levels above those proposed by Clinton.

Meanwhile, a string of reported disasters confirming gay advocates' fears about Bush have failed to materialize or been proven outright false.

It was reported that the Bush administration would close the federal AIDS office. But the office will stay open.

It was reported that Bush would appoint, as his adviser on gay issues, a 22-year-old gay man who supported an anti-gay marriage initiative in California. The Stonewall Democrats immediately denounced Bush. The *Advocate* interviewed the supposed appointee at length. The problem was: nobody in the White House had ever heard of the guy.

Remember how bad John Ashcroft was supposed to be? He was going to bring back stoning as a punishment for homosexuality or something like that, we were told. Yet one of his first acts as attorney general was to meet with the Log Cabin Republicans. It was a wholly symbolic gesture, to be sure, but was also wholly unprecedented for a Republican attorney general. And Ashcroft hardly speaks in public anymore without reaffirming his promise not to discriminate against gays.

I know, things could be better. But even if Bush signs no pro-gay legislation he will have matched Bill Clinton's record. In the realm of signing anti-gay legislation, of course, Clinton is peerless among American presidents.

There is still plenty that could go wrong. Bush could rescind Clinton's executive order forbidding anti-gay discrimination in federal employment. At the behest of Ashcroft and others, he could try to appoint a really bad justice or two to the Supreme Court who might make a difference on a gay legal issue sometime in the future. He could, likely more out of ignorance than mendacity, publicly say some really dumb things about gays.

But the glass is starting to look more half-full than half-empty. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



OutRight

COMMUNITY NEWS

DP ceremony unites couples



Jane Philoren Clend

Forty-four same-sex couples, including these two men, took part in the city's fifth annual commitment ceremony Thursday, March 29 in City Hall, hosted by Mayor Willie Brown. Following the ceremony, there was a reception and raffle drawing for prizes ranging from hotel stays to dining and entertainment packages.

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Trans heroes for a better tomorrow

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Last week, I was interviewed by a doctoral student for a college project. The interviewer asked quite a number of great questions, but the one that really stuck with me was this: What would I like to see happen in the transgender movement?

I gave a fine enough answer then, discussing my desire to see us reach a stage where one's gender presentation — especially those who may be considered gender variant — would be no bigger an issue than handedness or hair color. I realized that

there is something I would want to add to that answer. I'd like to see transgendered people have something I didn't have when I was growing up. I want to see more positive role models in the transgender community, heroes that up-and-coming transgendered people will seek to emulate.

Being of the television generation, most of my heroes were the various stars I watched on television growing up. People like Lynda Carter as Wonder Woman, Kate Jackson as Sabrina Duncan on *Charlie's Angels*, and Lindsay Wagner as the Bionic Woman. I even went so far as to join the official fan club of the latter, and still have my membership certificate somewhere. Not only that, but I managed to get hold of the Bionic Woman doll back then,

complete with little plastic arm and leg implants to show she went under surgery to make her "better, faster, and stronger" than her counterparts. It makes me wonder if Jamie Sommers was required to live as a bionic woman for a minimum of a year before getting bionic implants?

But I digress.

I didn't see many transgendered heroes out in TV land. There were the occasional antics of Flip Wilson as Geraldine, or Billy Crystal as Jodie Tate on *Soap*, but not much of real substance. That didn't

stop me from watching, of course, seeking to glean any

morsel of knowledge, anything that I could take into my own life.

Eventually I did hear the occasional story. Though Christine Jorgensen had largely faded from the spotlight, there were names like Renee Richards and Wendy Carlos floating around, as well as Carolyn "Tula" Cossey. Through them I learned that there were others out there, but was never able to learn enough to really feel that I had found someone I wanted to take after.

Not only that, but what I could discover made these few people sound like something far more exotic and far more unique than a kid from South El Monte, California, could be. I could envy them, sure — but I couldn't emulate them. Renee, Wendy, and Carolyn may as well have been

living on the moon.

It wasn't until I really began to get involved, in transgender circles that I found people who I could see as role models to me, who I felt had qualities that I sought in my own life. Especially when one considered how they handled the transgender aspects of their lives.

I admired their daring, their strength, and their wisdom, and I drew strength from their willingness to take large risks to be true to themselves.

It's a long list of people, including Kate Bornstein and Leslie Feinberg, who showed me that one could take pride in being transgendered, rather than assuming it to be something only worthy of shame. In Holly Woodlawn and others who have survived, even flourished, in the face of adversity, I take strength. I look up to people like the late Petric Smith, who stood up against the Ku Klux Klan, at the risk of his own life. And I attempt to emulate those like Lili Elbe, who traveled her own trans journey back in the 1930s, blazing many trails that are still in use today.

I could go on, but it's likely to sound like an Academy Award acceptance speech — and no one wants to hear that.

We may already be reaching a point where my desire to have more heroes in the transgender community is becoming fulfilled.



proud in jobs ranging from taxi driver to space shuttle ground crew physician.

There are people who are not looking at their gender manifestations as an albatross around their neck, but rather as something rare and wonderful. Something that they find as valuable in their lives. A thing worth sharing with others, rather than burying it with guilt.

But we can always use more heroes, more people willing to help those who are looking for role models to take after. I certainly don't think we can have too many positive role models for transgendered people to look up to, especially in a community so diverse in goals, presentations, and

desires.

That is where you, dear reader, come into this. Perhaps you are a hero in waiting, and don't even know it. Consider what you can do to inspire those around you, and what qualities you may have to share with others. You may find yourself as part of a pretty nice future for transgendered people.

And wouldn't that make it all worth a little effort? ▼

Gwen Smith prefers hoagies and grinders to heroes. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

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Things we do for love

by Jane Warner

2000 block of Market, March 27, 6:25 p.m.: A man who was upset over a recent breakup with his boyfriend went to his ex's work place and continuously rang the store's outside buzzer. The manager of the store came out and told him to stop, but the man threw a cup of hot coffee on him along with a cup of instant noodles. Angry, the manager pushed the suspect to the ground in an attempt to hold him for police, but several passersby thought the manager was assaulting the suspect and urged him to let go. The manager released his hold and the suspect stood up and punched him in the face. The assailant took off running and was last seen heading westbound on Market. A short time later, however, the suspect returned and threw a soda bottle at the manager who was standing behind the closed gate. The bottle shattered upon impact and the disgruntled ex, described as a white male, late 30s, 5

feet 8 inches tall and weighing 145 pounds, wearing a blue jacket and blue beanie cap, fled once again westbound on Market. Responding police were unable to find him.

Fruit stand

Church and Market, March 30, 12:15 p.m.: A man reported while riding in his work van with another co-worker, his ex-boyfriend suddenly jumped in front of them at the intersection of Church and Market and refused to move. Cars began honking as the ex stood in the middle of the street screaming obscenities. The van finally swerved around him, but the ex hung onto the passenger side mirror as the vehicle crossed the intersection. The man got out and confronted his ex, and a pushing match ensued. Responding police found the two wrestling in Safeway's parking lot and arrested the suspect for battery. The 39-year-old man was booked at Mission Station and served with an emergency protective order.

Candy man

18th and Hartford, March 27, 7:15 p.m.: A police officer on routine patrol observed a Peugeot double-parked blocking westbound traffic on 18th. As she was writing a citation, a man walked out of a store yelling, "Give me a fucking break, bitch." The man got into the car and started to drive away, ignoring the officer's commands to pull over as she banged on his driver side window. The man finally stopped, telling her, "I thought you were just a meter maid." The officer placed him under arrest after he admitted not having a driver's license. Found in his possession, however, were two driver's licenses with his photo but different names, several credit cards that did not belong to him, and two vials of a white powdery substance to which he explained, "That's just a little cocaine. No big deal." The 40-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for various felony charges. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

High court grapples with medical marijuana issue

by Bob Roehr

The issue before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 28 ostensibly was medical marijuana, but things are seldom so simple with the Court. *U.S. v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative* also grappled with underlying principles concerning the roles of the national and state governments in the federated structure of governance, as well as with questions of popular will and the appropriate route for prosecution.

A majority of the justices pursued lines of questioning that left most observers believing that they were not favorably disposed to pot. Yet most also believe that the court will end up issuing a narrow ruling, as is their preference, that will not completely resolve all questions surrounding medical marijuana.

In 1996, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 215 that allowed seriously ill patients to use marijuana for medical purposes without fear of legal prosecution under the law. The Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative was among those created to provide a safe and affordable supply of marijuana for sick people, and was so recognized by the city government.

Federal prosecutors moved to close all such organizations in the state as being in violation of the Federal Controlled Substances Act (1970), which declares marijuana to be of no medical value and prohibits its use.

The feds decided not to criminally prosecute sick people using marijuana, but rather chose to file civil suits against organizations such as the cooperative that supplied them the marijuana. The approach seemed to be crafted to avoid a direct legal challenge of

Proposition 215 and to avoid putting the matter before a jury, most of whom likely voted for the proposition.

The matter went back and forth between U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The narrow issue that ended up before the Supreme Court was whether organizations and individuals can raise a medical necessity defense in justifying violation of the federal law.

Medical necessity argues that an individual's right to save their

who underwent treatment for colon cancer a year ago, pressed questions on the extent of use of marijuana by patients. Kennedy noted that there were no patients as plaintiffs in the case before them.

Further clouding the matter was the procedural question raised by Justice David Souter. He suggested that federal officials pursued civil rather than traditional criminal prosecution as a tactic by which they could avoid a jury, where it would be difficult to obtain a conviction in light of the

The approach seemed to be crafted to avoid a direct legal challenge of Prop. 215 and to avoid putting the matter before a jury.

own life trumps the law.

Cooperative attorney Gerald Uelmen said that lower courts had recognized "a limited exception" to the law under the medical necessity argument.

Justice Anthony Kennedy responded that the scope of the case before them "doesn't sound limited at all," while Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the argument "appeared to create a blanket exception to the Controlled Substances Act."

Justice Antonin Scalia seemed to differentiate between use of a medical necessity defense for an individual and for those prescribing and dispensing marijuana. He called the latter "a vast expansion beyond any necessity defense I've ever heard."

Uelmen admitted to Chief Justice William Rehnquist that while lower courts had recognized the medical necessity defense, the Supreme Court had not.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,

public vote for Proposition 215. He suggested that this may be a misuse of prosecutorial authority.

An added wrinkle is that only eight justices will decide the issues. Justice Stephen Breyer withdrew from the case because of a possible conflict of interest. His younger brother, Charles, was the district judge who heard the original case.

It is always difficult to predict how the Supreme Court will rule on a matter before them. It is perhaps even more difficult in this instance given that so little case law exists in this area and there are many competing questions.

Most observers anticipate a fairly narrow ruling that will not take on the legitimacy of medical marijuana initiatives passed by voters in nine states. Language on the medical necessity defense likely will be limited to organizations, leaving the question of its use by individuals for another day. ▼

Paramount pulls plug on *Dr. Laura* show

Cancellation releases KPIX, KXTV from 2-year contract

by Dan Aiello

The embattled *Dr. Laura* show, already relegated to television's 2 a.m. graveyard shift by local stations, was unceremoniously scuttled by its producer, Paramount Domestic Television, last week. The decision by Paramount to cancel the show ended a financial and public relations nightmare for local television stations KPIX in San Francisco and KXTV in Sacramento, both of which were contractually committed to the show for the next two years.

In a press release from its Los Angeles office, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation hailed the show's cancellation as "a major victory against defamation and anti-gay intolerance."

GLAAD and organizers of a Web site called StopDrLaura.com were part of a coalition of activists that began protesting Paramount's decision to produce a television show for radio personality Laura Schlessinger in 1998 after Schlessinger began using terms such as "deviant," "disordered" and "biological error" to describe gays and lesbians on her radio show and at speaking engagements.

Schlessinger attempted to explain her comments as "taken out of context" only after it appeared that the boycott and protests by the LGBT community were affecting her show. Schlessinger, a born-again Orthodox Jew, even used last year's Yom Kippur, a religious day of atonement, to apologize to gays and lesbians for her "hurtful words," but few believed the act to be sincere.

'Off the island'

The *Dr. Laura* show debuted nationally last September 11 and received its highest ratings on both KPIX and KXTV during its premiere week, due in part to the media attention given to the GLAAD-sponsored boycott. At its height, *Dr. Laura* was being watched by 10 percent of Bay Area homes with televisions turned on at 3 p.m., or approximately 75,000 households, according to Rosemary Roach, programming director for KPIX. KXTV's Kevin Williams claimed *Dr. Laura* won its time slot in Sacramento during the same week. But the show rapidly lost its audience and within two weeks was being watched by only a third of its original viewing audience.

Critics of the show — and there were many — noted Schlessinger's harsh, haggard appearance was not conducive to television. "She just looked mean," said one national critic. Others mentioned the arena-like set only emphasized Schlessinger's self-righteous condemnation of her guests despite Paramount's best efforts to soften the host's rhetoric.

"Television is the ultimate democracy," explained Jerry Eaton, general manager for KPIX, following the show's cancellation. "The tribe has spoken and she's off the island." Eaton and Roach together claimed their decision to purchase the *Dr. Laura* show was a year before the controversy began and claimed to be unaware of Schlessinger's views of gays and lesbians until after the contract was signed. "Perhaps we'll never know exactly what caused the show's demise," said Eaton. "Whether it was the production, Schlessinger, or the boycott, the bottom line is that it didn't draw an audience."

On November 10, just two months after its debut, KPIX became one of the first stations in the nation to exile *Dr. Laura* to the wee hours of the morning as Schlessinger was watched by only 24,000 homes. Sacramento's KXTV, an ABC affiliate, was one of the last to move Schlessinger, whose show benefited by preceding *Oprah*. But eventually not even *Oprah* could help the beleaguered *Dr. Laura*.

Although GLAAD's boycott may not have directly affected ratings, it certainly had an impact on the budgets of local stations. Last May, GLAAD and the Horizons Foundation placed ads in major daily newspapers and advertising trade publications discouraging companies and their media buyers from associating their brand names with Schlessinger's message of intolerance. StopDrLaura.com similarly claimed to have been responsible for the entire country of Canada dropping the show from the nation's television screens. By the time *Dr. Laura* aired in September, KPIX and KXTV could find no major national advertisers for the show and, because ad time is sold in blocks, the boycott affected shows airing before and after *Dr. Laura*.

Schlessinger's venture into television also hurt her syndicated radio talk show. Many longtime radio advertisers pulled their ad dollars as the talk show host's intolerant views gained national attention. The boycott and contro-

versy also brought to light the fact that Schlessinger may have been using her doctorate in physiology to mislead her listeners into believing she was either a psychiatrist or psychologist, of which she is neither.

"The cancellation of *Dr. Laura* offers Schlessinger yet another opportunity to do the right thing," said Joan Garry, executive director of GLAAD. "GLAAD calls on Schlessinger to publicly state that she will stop using her self-described 'hurtful words' to characterize the LGBT community. Whatever happens, GLAAD will continue to keep an eye on Schlessinger, and we'll hold her accountable again if she continues her defamatory attacks."

Although Schlessinger's remarks about homosexuals may have caused her television show's cancellation, she still remains an influential author and radio personality, with millions of listeners nationally. She also remains, in part because of her views on homosexuality, a sought-after speaker at conservative and religious events. Schlessinger, for example, recently appeared at the morning prayer breakfast during the California Republican Party's convention in Sacramento. ▼

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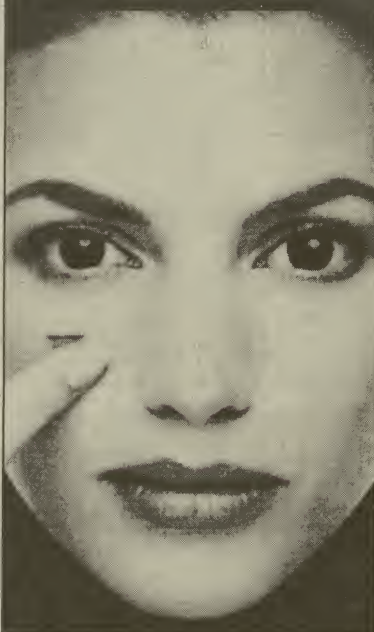
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Our Man Friday

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semblymembers **George Nakano** (Torrance), **Carol Liu** (La Canada), and **Wilma Chan** (Oakland), all Democrats, recently announced the formation of the first Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus ever in Sacramento.

Rumors continue in Washington, D.C. that someone "high up" in the Bush administration is a closet case and that it is only a

matter of time before someone in the media back there blows the whistle, so to speak.

Lots of Democratic wannabe statewide candidates at last weekend's state convention in Anaheim, and some of the delegates from the city who attended tell me that our own Assemblywoman Carole Migden was getting plenty of attention among the state delegates. "They like Carole and treat her like a Democrat with a real future," one gay local delegate told me.

And how was your week? ▼

Bizarre details surface in mauling case

by Ed Walsh

New frightening and bizarre details are surfacing in the investigation of the dog-mauling death of Diane Whipple. A series of police and California Department of Corrections reports released last week include an allegation of bestiality and documentation, that in part, contradicts the account given by Marjorie Knoller, one of the caretakers of the two dogs involved in the January 26 attack.

According to a San Francisco Police report, Esther Birkmaler, a neighbor who witnessed the attack through her peep hole, said Whipple was desperately trying to get into her apartment to get away from the dog. Birkmaler's account appears to contradict Knoller's statements that Whipple could have avoided the attack by entering her apartment.

The report horrifically detailed that Birkmaler heard Whipple cry out: "Get away, get away! Help me, help me!" Birkmaler heard Knoller yell: "Stop it! Stop it!"

Birkmaler said she was stunned for about three to five minutes before she was able to call police. The report noted that she said she had been "deathly afraid" of the dogs for several months prior to the attack.

The report also corroborates Knoller's claim that she tried to prevent the attack and was injured in the process. The report said she was "covered in blood and had a contusion above her right eye [and] a cut on her right thumb and

a cut on her right index finger."

Knoller maintains she was hurt by Bane, the male dog who instigated the attack, and by Whipple, whom she says punched her in the struggle to get away from the dogs. Knoller also said that the female dog, Hera, only tugged at Whipple's clothing but according to the San Francisco Medical Examiner, there is evidence that two different dogs bit Whipple.

A written statement to police from Noel and Knoller's next door neighbor, Skip Cooley, described one of the dogs lunging at him in the elevator before it was yanked back by Noel.

"This near-attack was unprovoked and I would consider it to be very aggressive behavior," wrote Cooley.

The neighbor concluded his statement: "Finally, the Noels kept a door mat outside their door that said, 'Ask not for whom the dog barks. The dog barks for thee.' The tone and threat of this saying in a residential setting is ridiculous. Again, another example of why my wife lived in fear."

Other neighbors described similar incidents in the police reports. Jill Davis said she was shaken by a near-attack in which one of Noel and Knoller's dogs "lunged and nipped" toward her. Stephen Davis told police a nearly identical story. He said one of the dogs "lunged toward him, its front paws were off the ground, and its mouth was open."

The documents released last Thursday included a report from the Department of Corrections detailing that Pelican Bay Prison



Marjorie Knoller

Sergeant J. Akin found documentation of attacks by one of Noel and Knoller's dogs on a blind woman. Akin found the evidence in the cell of Paul Schneider, Noel and Knoller's newly adopted son. "[Akin] discovered letters indicating Noel and Knoller's dogs bit a blind woman and her guide dog at two separate occasions sometime between June of 2000 and January 26, 2001," the report said.

The Department of Corrections report also suggested possible evidence of bestiality: "Akin also found a letter disguised as legal mail addressed to Schneider from either Noel or Knoller regarding sexual activity between Noel, Knoller, and the dog Bane. Akin also told us that he saw in Schneider and [cellmate Dale] Bretches's property numerous photos of Knoller posing nude with fighting dog drawings. Akin also indicated that he discovered communications between Noel and Knoller to Schneider that described sexual activities between Knoller and Noel and included photos and drawings

of dogs and fighting dogs and photos of the dog's penis."

In an interview with the Bay Area Reporter last month, Noel vigorously denied any involvement with bestiality.

"That's the Department of Corrections' typical bullshit," he said.

Prison authorities say both Schneider and Bretches are members of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Police say the pair ran an attack-dog breeding business from prison.

A Department of Corrections report detailed a conversation between Akin, Bretches, and Schneider in which the inmates said they had considered "getting rid" of Bane because they considered him too tame.

"This conversation indicates that both inmates claim ownership of the dog and are aware of the lethal potential instilled in the dog by design, through training,"

the report concluded.

The San Francisco District Attorney spokesman, Fred Gardner, told the B.A.R. this week that the case is on "hiatus" until April 13 when Noel and Knoller are scheduled to be arraigned. Gardner said the couple had asked for a bail reduction but he couldn't comment on how much of a reduction they requested. Gardner said prosecutors have made no decision over whether they would agree to a reduction.

Currently Noel is being held on \$1 million bail, Knoller on \$2 million. Knoller is facing the more serious charge of second-degree murder while Noel, who wasn't with the dogs at the time of the attack, faces involuntary manslaughter as his most serious charge.

Both are being held at San Francisco County jail and are under orders from their attorney not to talk to reporters. ▼

Sharon Smith

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lived with Whipple for only two or three years.

In a brief interview with the B.A.R. this week, Van Derbeek said Craft misunderstood his e-mail. He said he told her that prosecutors said Smith and Whipple lived in the Pacific Heights apartment building where the attack occurred for about three years. He noted that he never said that Smith and Whipple had only been a living together for three years.

Craft's on-air speculation that Smith may have only lived with Whipple for a month apparently stemmed from a statement by Noel that he believed Whipple may have moved into the building only a month before the attack.

Kendell said Smith and Whipple first met in 1994 and moved in together as a couple three months later. Kendell noted that Smith and Whipple have lived together in the Pacific Heights apartment since 1999.

Mysterious message

The length of Whipple and Smith's relationship could be critical to establishing Smith's claim that she should be allowed to sue for wrongful death because she was Whipple's de facto spouse. Currently, state law only allows a married spouse or family members to sue for wrongful death. Smith's attorneys hope to show that she and Whipple should have the same rights as a married couple.

Craft told her radio audience that she supported changing the law to give gay couples comparable rights to married heterosexual couples but said there needs to be "standards." Craft questioned whether Smith and Whipple's relationship would meet such a standard.

"I support efforts to give gay and lesbian couples standing in survivorship actions but I question whether the raw emotion of this case will fuel the making of bad law [Assemblywoman Carole Migden's bill, AB25]," Craft emailed the B.A.R. "Seems to me that there should be some standard of time spent together, shared property, shared trusts, wills, etc., to demonstrate the seriousness of a particular union, perhaps like the common law putative spouse statutes in some states."

"I also personally feel that it's too bad that gay marriage is not legal, that would preclude the whole argument about wrongful death 'standing.' I think people

should have to demonstrate serious commitment before having standing to sue for monetary damages when the partner dies due to the negligence of another," Craft added.

Kendell said she first heard from Craft on March 12, when someone named "Christine" from a radio station called asking whether her office knew that Smith and Whipple had been together for only one month. Kendell said Craft didn't leave a number and she didn't realize it was Christine Craft until after Craft speculated about the length of Whipple and Smith's relationship on the air.

Craft told the B.A.R. that Kendell was mistaken and that she left her full name and her station's name when she called NCLR.

"I asked about the confusion stemming from the original article which said Ms. Whipple had only lived there a month," said Craft. "I was told that Kate Kendell did not have time to talk to me and that's where I left it."

Kendell had a quick response to Craft's explanation: "That's not true. That's a lie. She is lying."

"This is the problem I have. This is like a 7-year-old's response," said Kendell. "She has done something wrong. She has made a mistake. And instead of acknowledging it and being accountable, she is now covering her tracks and engaging in patent untruths. She left no message for me to call back, for me to dissuade her and correct her misinformation. Because it wasn't in her interest to correct her misinformation and she ran with it."

"I never, ever, do not return a reporter's phone call," Kendell noted. "And particularly where someone is throwing out incendiary and inflammatory misinformation."

Craft told the B.A.R. it was ironic that NCLR is threatening her with a lawsuit.

"I've devoted a significant portion of my life and resources to women's rights," she wrote. "I was the plaintiff in a landmark case challenging the sexist practices of the broadcast industry."

Kendell said she would like to avoid a lawsuit and would be satisfied with a public apology from Craft.

"We have more important legal battles to be involved in than some sort of legal fight with KGO but I do think it is a perfectly reasonable request to ask that Christine Craft acknowledge she placed fast and loose with the facts in a very hurtful way. And she owes Sharon [Smith] an apology." ▼

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At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of KALETRA on the clinical progression of HIV.



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KALETRA, when taken with other medicines, has been shown to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD₄ T-cells. However, KALETRA is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time either. Individuals taking KALETRA may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection.

Over 24 weeks, most patients found that they could stay with a KALETRA-based regimen. Only 2% of 326 patients stopped taking KALETRA because of drug-related side effects (12% stopped for other reasons).

KALETRA is taken twice daily—in the morning and evening. Your healthcare professional will tell you how much KALETRA to take. KALETRA is to be taken with your choice of food, but there are no rules on what you eat or how much liquid you drink. KALETRA is also available as a liquid.

Safety considerations

KALETRA should not be used with ergotamine, ergonovine, dihydroergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine® and others, Halcion® (triazolam), Hismanal® (astemizole), Orap® (pimozide), Propulsid® (cisapride), Rythmol® (propafenone), Seldane® (terfenadine), Tambocor™ (flecainide), Versed® (midazolam).

Taking certain drugs with KALETRA could create the potential for life-threatening side effects. Always talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA (lopinavir/ritonavir) or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. In some patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving ARV therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, which should be monitored before and during therapy.

The most commonly reported KALETRA-related side effects of moderate severity are: abnormal stools, diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea.

For more information about KALETRA: Call 1-800-441-4987 toll free.
Ask your doctor or other healthcare professional.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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Abbott Laboratories
014-036-6193-1
FEBRUARY 2001
Printed in U.S.A.
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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about drugs that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check-ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA:

Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergo®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
Halcion® (triazolam)
Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Rhythmol® (propafenone)
Seldane® (terfenadine)
Tambocor® (flecainide)
Versed® (midazolam)

- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to

take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- **If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- **If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

- **If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

- **If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Revised: October, 2000

Ref., 03-5074

01A-036-5344-1 MASTER

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01A-036-6193-1
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Major Internet censorship suit filed

by David Fraser

A three-judge panel has been chosen to hear the initial round of the major Internet censorship case involving open access to online information at public libraries.

The American Civil Liberties Union last month filed a suit challenging a federal law which forces libraries to use technology-blocking measures to censor "obscene" or "harmful" sites from minors' view, or forfeit federal funds.

The law, passed by Congress last December, is called the Children's Internet Protection Act (CHIPA). It requires public libraries to participate in federal programs to install "technology protection measures" on all library Internet terminals, regardless of whether federal funds were involved.

The ACLU is arguing "on behalf of public libraries, library patrons, and Web site authors" that "the government is choking off the free flow of information on the Internet to the library patrons who need it the most," said Ann Beeson, a member of the ACLU's legal team that filed the suit with the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, in Philadelphia.

A key client in the case is a teen-age lesbian in Portland, Oregon, who used her local public library over the past two years to learn about sexual orientation. Once she found resources and a welcoming queer community online, she was able to come out, according to the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The ACLU also argues that by

targeting libraries, the government is widening the "digital divide" between those able to afford home Internet access and those who cannot, often ethnic minorities.

Another problem with blocking technology is it doesn't work very well, or perhaps, works too well. Beeson noted that Congress approved CHIPA even after its own panel rejected the concept because of the risk that "protected, harmless, or innocent speech would be accidentally or inappropriately blocked."

Sites blocked by the software have included a map of Disney World, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a list of *Mayflower* passengers, and *Seventeen* magazine, the ACLU said.

Eric Ferrero, the organization's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project's public education director, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the judges, as yet unnamed, should hear the case this year.

"I'd hesitate to say at what level we will win, but we are certainly confident the law is unconstitutional and won't stand," Ferrero said. "Where it will fall we're not too certain, but we feel pretty sure it's going to fall."

The teen-age client also used the popular LGBT site PlanetOut.com in her research. PlanetOut, just completing a merger with Gay.com, is a plaintiff in the ACLU suit.

"Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are most often members of a minority group that their parents are not," said PlanetOut spokesman Bryce Eberhart in a statement. "These young people can feel a tremendous sense of isolation which translates into higher

rates of suicide and depression. Web sites like PlanetOut and Gay.com offer a cure for that isolation.

"Young people and their families can go online and connect with others who understand what they are going through, without risking discrimination. We are proud to join the ACLU in fighting the censorship of vital online resources at public libraries."

No date has been set for the hearing by appeals court.

Ferrero said the case raised enough constitutional questions to be filed at the appeals level, and was thus also fast-tracked to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Whichever side loses would appeal," Ferrero said, and then the top court would decide whether or not to hear the case.

CHIPA targets child pornography and material that is deemed "obscene" under federal law, or that is "harmful to minors."

The latter is defined to include "any communication, picture, image, graphic image file, article, recording, writing, or other matter of any kind" that, for children under 17, appeals to a "prurient interest" in nudity, sex, or excretion; offensively depicts "with respect to what is suitable for minors," "actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts," and lewd exhibition of the genitals. Such material, "taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value," the law text says. ▼

HIV PREVENTION STUDY

UCSF researchers are seeking gay and bisexual men who live in and/or socialize around the Castro and SOMA neighborhoods of SF AND who have had anal sex in the past 6 months. In particular, we strongly encourage African American men to call. We anticipate this study to contribute significantly to understanding the HIV risk related issues of the Gay/Bi-sexual African American Communities. The study interview lasts 1 1/2 hours. Participants will receive \$40 for their participation. Data collected will be used to improve HIV prevention efforts in SF. Please call 415-597-8126 to see if you are eligible.

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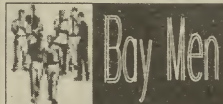
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Keep your lawsuits local, fed court says

by Katie Szymanski

Attention all LGBT people who think they've been wrongfully treated: don't make a federal case out of it.

There's a reason that gay advocates are fighting for national legislation like the Employment Non-discrimination Act, and last week a federal appeals court phrased that reason as a ruling: we are not a population that is federally protected. Yet still countless people have sued and been sued in federal court for various injustices on the basis of sexual orientation. Why?

In some instances, it's to test the system. A ruling that recognizes LGBT protections could fly in the face of anti-gay legislation. In other matters, it's to get the courts to finalize in writing what has been assumed, so that LGBT people know where they stand. That is what has appeared to have happened with the recent ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. On Thursday, March 29, the court upheld a similar 1979 ruling that federal civil rights laws protect workers against discrimination only on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

The ruling was based on the case *Rene v. MGM Grand Hotel Inc.*, whereby gay butler Medina Rene, who worked in the Las

Vegas hotel, claimed that from 1994 to 1996 his co-workers and supervisor subjected him to a hostile work environment and made demeaning remarks targeting his homosexuality. He sued in federal court, but a 1997 lower court decided he did not have a federal case, and that he should have sued in state court, where he was protected under local laws. Twelve states allow such suits under their own non-discrimination legislation, including California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

While Rene tried to argue that his gender should be reason enough for a federal case, the courts disagreed. Unfortunately, unlike other known LGBT cases that are filed in federal court as a matter of principle as well as state court for reasons of practicality, Rene's case was never filed in the Nevada system. The statute of limitations has run out for Rene to sue in state court, which means whatever statement his attorney was trying to make in federal court has basically left him with no recourse at all. The United States Supreme Court has never decided such a case, and given its makeup and recent conservative decisions would not likely side with a gay man crying foul. ▼

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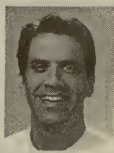
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Gay newspapers and 'community': Two historical viewpoints

by David Fraser

Asked for their thoughts on the relationship between the gay print media and the queer community, two longtime observers, Terence Kissack and Jim Van Buskirk, offer their interpretations.

Major gay newspapers in San Francisco are well-known as the gadflies, goads, and gossips of the communities they serve.

And of course, they are lightning rods for public emotion (depending on which public); fair or unfair political and cultural critics (depending on whether you agree); and directory assistance for people looking to hook up (depending on ... well, okay).

The gay print media are also a keystone for building queer community (depending on how you define community). Or a version thereof.

"Gay newspapers create a simulacrum of community, a necessary myth we use as a touchstone: 'the community.' We get strength from this necessary fiction, made over every day by media like the B.A.R.," says historian Terence Kissack, programs director for the LGBT Historical Society of Northern California in San Francisco.

"In one sense, the gay media is the lifeblood of the queer community. People talk about community as if there were a shared group of folks with a shared agenda, all on the same page.

"But you do need a communications network to have a community of some sort, and to a great degree it's the media that supports the community and the community that supports the media."

He added, "The fact that San Francisco is the center of the queer community [nationwide] has a lot to do with its being the center of queer media."

Kissack cites a recent dissertation by Martin Meeker, who argues that circulation of early gay publications like *Ladder*, the *San Francisco Chapter Daughters of Bilitis Newsletter*, and the *Mattachine Review*, was a critical element in shaping San Francisco's reputation as a gay mecca.

"It became a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy," Kissack said.

Journals of record

Historically, Kissack says, key newspapers also have played a role as journals of record for the communities they serve.

He notes that from the 1980s, two major frequent rivals, the B.A.R. and the now-defunct *Sentinel*, often competed for advertising and market niche via their editorial stances.

"It's not like they represented two opposing camps," Kissack said. "They reflected conflicts within the queer community, alternatives. The distinction is more like *Time* versus *Newsweek*. They're both after the same market, with ideological differences conditioned by the marketplace."

Now, in Kissack's view, with the demise of the *Sentinel*, the *Bay Area Reporter* and the *San Francisco Bay Times* are "sort of journals



The first B.A.R., in 1971

of record."

He says that both papers can be criticized as not giving full coverage to the diversity of the city, but adds that letters to the editor help bolster the "record" notion.

"Their real strength," Kissack adds, "is that they give a sense of continuity within the [queer] community. No matter where you are, you can feel part of the community, even if you just scan the headlines. The B.A.R. and the *Bay Times* position themselves as the voice of entire communities.

"One strength is that they're very San Francisco-focused. One weakness is that they're very San Francisco-focused. That's partly because the publishers know their market. It makes for a lively local press."

Van Buskirk's views

Jim Van Buskirk is program manager at the James C. Hormel Gay/Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library.

Van Buskirk sees the development of gay media in part as a needed foil for mainstream media's ignorance or anti-gay bias.

For example, "the 1969 demonstration against [homophobia in] the *Examiner* was one of many West Coast Stonewalls. Mainstream media was unsympathetic, unresponsive, and non-objective. It became the role of the 'community' - although I don't use the word because I don't believe community exists per se - to develop its own media from the GLBT perspective and for political activity."

Van Buskirk points to the B.A.R. as an example of need creating media.

"Look at the B.A.R. name, and where it started [originally it was distributed in gay bars]. It was primarily male-oriented.

"But there are all sorts of pockets of gay populations around town. This ebbs and flows, similar to the way B.A.R. content ebbs and flows depending on who's writing and who's advertising."

The San Francisco public, and the broader Bay Area public, are growing more amorphous, Van Buskirk said.

"The *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* don't cover our issues like the B.A.R. and the *Bay Times*," he added. "Everyone creates their own body of information, now also from TV, radio, and the Internet. The B.A.R. is one strong contender in the pool of media access."

Shaping the simulacrum

Key events and political trends have also created a sense of community, pulling Kissack's "simulacrum" from the shadows and giving it a more solid shape.

Van Buskirk points to the failure of the Briggs initiative and the White Night riots following the assassination of Harvey Milk as two among many incidents that for him, showed the ways in which media and community can bolster each other.

The riots, Van Buskirk said, "told me - and I'm not a proponent of violence - we were involved in some of the same things as people in Watts or other civil rights demonstrations ... the riots renewed respect of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders as a force to be reckoned with."

Rodger Streitmatter concurs in his 1995 study, "Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America." He writes: "Comparing coverage in Seattle's straight and gay press [of the assassination of Milk and Mayor George Moscone] shows how the devastating event furthered gay journalism's building of a sense of national community.

"The mainstream *Seattle Times* reported the slayings on page one, first mentioning Moscone and then Milk, with headshots of the two men. *Seattle Gay News*, on the other hand, led with Milk's assassination but did not mention Moscone until the fifteenth line of the story ... The paper left no room for doubt that Lesbian and Gay America was a single community unified in its grief at the loss of a magnificent leader."

Streitmatter notes that the B.A.R. and other media reflected the gay population's rage and frustration, but also takes the paper to task for not condemning the 5,000 rioters who trashed City Hall, "left parts of the city in shambles and dozens of police officers and gay people in hospital beds" and caused more than \$1 million in damage.

More recently, for Van Buskirk, the Gay Games have been "a way for people to come together for political and social movement, in an arena that previously had not been viable."

To the extent that the gay media also serve as a historical record - although an incomplete one reflecting their target markets and audiences - they are an increasingly valuable resource for people trying to understand the ins and outs of gay society here.

Van Buskirk points to growing awareness of bisexual and transgender issues, with increasing though still limited visibility for both groups in the gay press and at large.

And Kissack figures the vision of society presented by gay papers is a historical asset for many.

"At least 40 percent of researchers who come to the LGBT Historical Society start with the B.A.R. and the *Bay Times*," Kissack said. "Anyone who works here will eventually know about the gay media and their role in San Francisco history." ▼

Over 30 years, Bay Area Reporter publisher Bob Ross has seen it all

by Katie Szymanski

Bob Ross first visited San Francisco in the early 1950s as a sailor in the United States Navy, immediately falling in love with the "wide open, free wheeling" town and vowing to return once his service was completed.

It was 1956 when he fulfilled that promise, at first settling into a small Russian Hill studio for \$50 a month, and taking several jobs in the restaurant industry as a chef, party promoter, and manager. From his insider's position in the bar world—which included a stint as president of the gay social club The Tavern Guild—Ross could see a culture growing that involved much more than booze and boys.

"Gay bars—when they weren't being raided—were the one place where everyone could meet and be themselves," recalled Ross. He therefore took a disliking to the independent bar rags that were being published in the early 1970s, for he saw them as containing nothing more than "vicious gossip," and very little useful information for the community.

Ross and his friend Paul Bentley decided that they would produce a bar publication of their own, one that would of course include social updates but also serve as a political organizer at a crucial time for gay empowerment.

And so, without coincidence, the B.A.R. was born; the initials for the *Bay Area Reporter* not only symbolized the paper's roots but also stood for "Bentley and Ross." The business partners would later incorporate under "Benro Enterprises," and although Bentley would leave the venture within a few years, both the newspaper and business name stuck.

The first issue of the B.A.R. was dated April 1, 1971, but hit the streets on April 2, Ross's 37th birthday. Ross pasted up all the pages by hand, copied them, and delivered them from a 1969 Ford Mustang. Just like today, the paper was free, and available at all the gay bars in San Francisco and the East Bay.

To read stories in the early issues of the B.A.R. is to fall in love with a population that was just beginning to enjoy its new political clout. The subhead for the newspaper read, "The catalyst for all factions of the gay community," for it wanted to be just that: the force that pushed people to respond. And so the details of the latest police raids and cruising busts were outlined play by play; the outrageously homophobic statements from elected officials were documented and analyzed; and calls to action were printed with each edition.

In many ways, the earliest B.A.R.s reveal a queer culture that was far ahead of its time, more progressive in some ways than we



B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross

are today.

Nudity was the cornerstone of most advertisements, and no one wrote to complain that their culture was being portrayed as "too sexual." Drag queens didn't have to fight for "inclusion," for it was understood that issues of gender expression were at the heart of gay bashing and police raids. Even topics like the prison system made it to the front page frequently, without the now-obligatory explanations as to why it is indeed "a gay issue."

The newspaper was biweekly until the 1980s, when two very significant developments occurred. The first was that Ross realized he had borrowed almost half a mil-

lion dollars from his other business ventures to pay for the B.A.R.; it was time to either put more effort into fundraising for the newspaper or leave it behind. The second development made it easier for him to decide what to do: AIDS had hit, and was devastating his community. The newspaper was the one publication in San Francisco that provided updates as well as familiarity and compassion. Ross quit everything else he had been involved with in order to devote himself full time to the B.A.R.; within a year the paper was back on its feet, coming out weekly in order to fill the crucial need for timely information.

Throughout the years, Ross has experienced more tragedy than any business owner should: from seeing 10 employees of the B.A.R. die of AIDS; to losing his friend Harvey Milk, the first gay politician he ever endorsed for office; to witnessing the passage of anti-gay policies and legislation no matter how hard he fought against them. But he takes comfort in all the LGBT history he has helped not only to document, but to create: from the "mainstreaming" of gay news, to the launching of successful boycotts and strikes against anti-gay companies, to the printing of the now-famous "No obits" cover of the B.A.R. in August 1998.

Today, Ross is trying to take a less active role in the newspaper,

preferring to leave daily operations to his full-time staff of 13 employees.

"I'm slowing down," said Ross, although he admits it's hard to do so.

Forty-five years ago, a young man fresh off the boat decided he was going to make his mark in San Francisco. Neither he nor the city could have imagined where his dreams would take us. ▼

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30 years B.A.R.

◀ page 1

idents, who often congregated in gay bars, where the free paper was first available.

"Bob Ross started something to address a community that wasn't covered by the dailies, wasn't covered by the weeklies, wasn't covered by anybody," Brown said. "Thirty years later, the *Bay Area Reporter* has grown into one of the most important [gay papers] in the nation."

The mayor remarked that politicians "shake" if they come under fire in the B.A.R., then added, "In most cases the *Bay Area Reporter* doesn't need to be kind to them because they're shit-heads." Brown might have still been smarting from his run-in with rookie Supervisor Chris Daly just days before the party. The two reportedly got into a bitter verbal clash in City Hall while meeting about the homeless.

The mayor also praised Sweet Lips, who was presented with a proclamation designating April 1 as "Sweet Lips Day in San Francisco." "I suppose only Herb Caen lasted longer as a columnist than Sweet Lips," Brown said to laughter.

Ross also was presented with a proclamation and April 2 was declared "Bay Area Reporter Anniversary Day" in the city.

Supervisor Mark Leno presented Ross with a certificate from the board acknowledging the paper. Leno said he started reading the paper 24 years ago, when he came to San Francisco.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden and her partner Cris Arguedas also stopped by to offer their congratulations, as did Empress XXX Donna Sachet.

Longtime readers of the paper shared some of their thoughts as well.

"I've been reading the paper



Mayor Willie Brown and publisher Bob Ross at the B.A.R. anniversary party.

for 20 years," said Thomas Healey, a retired nurse.

Tom Mayer, another longtime resident, said he started reading the paper in 1976.

"I've been in San Francisco 30 years myself," said Simeon, Emperor XVIII A.N. "The paper is a source of information for everything."

Empress XXV Marlena also attended the party. "I'm glad it's there, it's been a good provider for the community."

Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington stopped by and said that long before he was elected to office, the paper was an important resource for him.

Carolene Marks, widow of former state Senator Milton Marks, noted that Ross has always "been dedicated to the goals of dignity and equal opportunity ... the B.A.R. has been a powerful voice for so many, including those who did not have other ways to be heard." ▼



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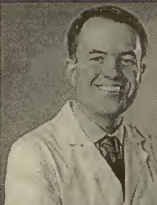
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WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Harry Hay warns gays to watch out for Bush

by David Fraser

Harry Hay is still worried. This time, it's the Bush administration. For a long lifetime of gay activism there have been issues that have goaded Hay, and the echoes of his actions have reverberated outside the canyons of his time.

But his time is really now, whenever he is. And it's personal.

Right now he's worried about George W. Bush and John Ashcroft and the people who serve them.

When you walk into the friend's house on the edge of the Castro that he shares with John Burnside, there is a tableau. Burnside is courteous to the visitor and his partner. Hay is at his work station, dozing in his wheelchair. His back is to the door: he faces his work.

And he is silent until the interview starts.

He is 88. He will be 89 in a couple of days, on April 7. He was born on Easter. His health is poor, and Burnside keeps an eye on him without seeming to.

But when Hay starts talking there is no age on him. The voice is soft; it is filled with the passion of an integrated life.

Warning

He is issuing a warning to the queer community and beyond. He wants vigilance above all. He sees the queer history he has helped write, and the changes he has initiated, helped by many, threatened by the current administration, not from frontal assault but through paperwork.

"I want everyone to be aware," he says. "We need people all across the country to start paying attention to every bill going before Congress."

He's concerned that history will regress to repeal progress on LGBT issues.

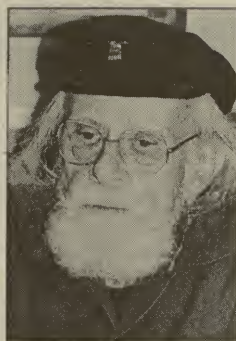
"It's very important that all the gay communities in the U.S. look back 20 years," Hay says. "The Family Protection Act of 1981-82 was a 500-page document. It had everything but the kitchen sink."

Supported by Jerry Falwell and the Christian conservative right, the bill for the FPA was written as a series of items "like random thoughts." Buried within was Item #451.

"It was just one sentence, that anyone harboring homosexual inclinations would be ineligible for unemployment, Social Security, and veterans' benefits," Hay said.

"Then there was a second item, saying that anyone who knows someone who ought to be on the first list ... you should turn them in to the police."

"If you did not, you henceforth would be ineligible for the same



Harry Hay in 1999

benefits. The point of the entire bill was to stick in those two paragraphs near the end."

Hay sees the two paragraphs as comparable to "Nazi squeeze" to coerce public compliance with the regime's policies: "You have to prove you're not what you're not."

And he thinks it's going to happen again, in the context of current debates over how queerdom is viewed in the straight world, and how ideas become policy.

"Tell them that organizations should divide up the documents, that people should go through everything, because the government under Bush will find a way to bury something inside a bill, just like they did before."

The past as present

There's not enough space here to even sketch Harry Hay's own role within many of the radical transformations in American queer society. A brief excursion takes us through his time as a young worker, his increasing sense of difference from and attraction to other young men, his search for a companion, his growing self awareness from contacts with Native Americans and the Industrial Workers of the World, his study of Marxism and folklore, his ability to conceptualize new frameworks for looking at the self within/without society, his politicization, his lovers, and loves.

After the publication of the Kinsey Report in 1948, Hay sought to redefine homosexuality in cultural terms, as a sexual minority. Kinsey's revelations of a broader homosexual population, while frequently challenged subsequently, were the catalyst for Hay's formation of the Mattachine Society in 1950. Mattachine was the earliest effort at organizing gay men in the U.S., both clandestinely and using an open front of discussion groups.

Hay's central place in the making and remaking of gay politics and culture has been documented

in documentaries and in books, including Stuart Timmons's biography, *The Trouble with Harry Hay*, and in *Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the Words of Its Founder*, written by Hay and edited by friend and scholar Will Roscoe.

In his introduction, Roscoe calls him "the Lesbian/Gay movement's living Malcolm X - the unassimilable radical who returns in every generation to inspire those young-at-heart unwilling to accept indignities that their elders have learned to accommodate."

Roscoe summarizes:

"He was there at the beginning, in 1948, talking about homosexuals as a cultural minority; he was there in the sixties urging stodgy homophiles to make room for Gay liberation; he was there in the seventies challenging a new wave of Gay assimilationists with radical faerie vision; he was there in the eighties, speaking to the Gay masses in New York's Central Park on the twentieth anniversary of Stonewall. ... He is the Gay movement's antidote to complacency."

Life and loves

But for Hay, whether it's Mattachine or the Radical Faeries he later founded, the merging of personal and political are simply part of an ongoing effort to live radically gay, in all aspects.

And underlying and intermingled with Hay's life is a deep familiar longing ...

"At around 14, I got hold of an old union card and went to Frisco. I got work on a tramp steamer as a deckhand, running from Seattle to San Francisco and beyond."

"I saw this guy aboard, an able seaman, Matt, from Mombasa. We were lying off Santa Barbara. He said, 'Maybe you'd like to take a walk in the dunes with me.' The first thing I knew I was in his arms being really kissed." His voice raises: "It was wonderful!"

"I was 14 but 6 foot 3, a big guy. He asked how old I was and I told him. He said, 'God, jail bait!' and it took me a long time to calm him down ... but we slept in the lifeboat that night."

"Later, he told me, 'Some day you're gonna be in Mombasa - it'll be white hot sun, it'll smell different. You'll be looking around, and some eye is gonna look at you. You're gonna know you're home, you're safe, and you're free.'"

Hay is quiet, and over his blue shirt with its necklace of tiny pearl sprays his eyes close for a moment.

"Years later I wake up and still say thanks for Matt."

Then as John Burnside bustles past the wheelchair, Hay coalesces: "Now, you be sure and tell people to watch out for Bush and his shenanigans. Put that early in your story." ▼

AIDS drug ads

◀ page 3

strong link between riskier sex practices and glamorous HIV drug advertisements, the hearing will take place before the Housing, Transportation, and Land Use Committee and will focus on fact finding, resulting in recommendations to the full board and possibly yielding legislation.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Ammann told the *Bay Area Reporter*, noting that results of the

DPH survey will be cited at the hearing.

One such finding is that 72 percent of gay and straight men surveyed agreed that HIV drug advertisements "portray men who are healthy, handsome, and strong." Sixty-two percent agreed that the advertisements affect decisions about unprotected sex.

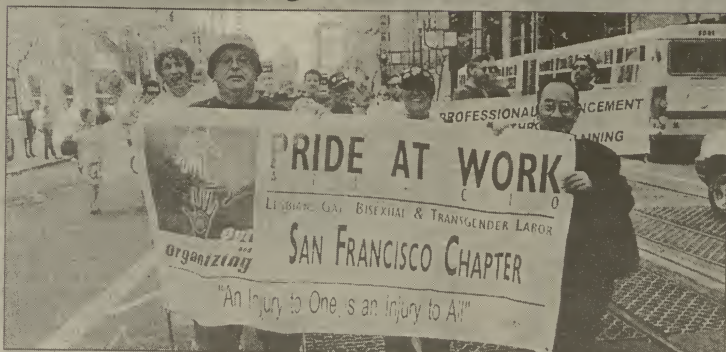
It has been more than 30 years since the Marlboro Man was first used to lure people into addiction; since then, the original Marlboro Man has died of lung cancer, and the percentage of Americans who

smoke has declined.

Perhaps one day drug companies will act socially responsible when it comes to publicizing all the horrors of side effects and AIDS, but until then, say AIDS activists, a ban such as the one proposed by Ammann may be necessary. ▼

Next Thursday's hearing is at 1 p.m. in the committee room on the second floor of City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, and is open to the public.

Remembering Cesar Chavez



Members of the LGBT labor group Pride at Work march Saturday, March 31 during San Francisco's first observance of the new state holiday honoring the birthday of United Farm Workers founder Cesar Chavez, who died in 1993. Pride at Work participants were joined by Lesbian and Gay Insurance; labor unions, city workers, and others also took part in the parade.

AIDS drug patents and pricing remain at issue

by Liz Highleyman

The battle over accessible AIDS drugs continues to simmer in the weeks leading up to the resumption of the lawsuit by 39 pharmaceutical manufacturers against South Africa. At issue is a South African law that allows that country to locally manufacture or import cheap generic AIDS drugs in contravention of global and national patent laws.

Drug companies have received considerable international pressure and negative publicity in relation to the suit, and several companies have recently announced concessions that will allow greater access to AIDS drugs for poor countries.

On March 27, Abbott Laboratories announced that it would reduce prices on two AIDS drugs and its Determine brand HIV antibody test for countries in Africa. Abbott said it would provide its protease inhibitors ritonavir

(Norvir) and lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra) at no profit. Although the company did not announce specific prices, it said the new costs would be in line with those of other AIDS drugs in Africa, less than \$1,000 per person annually. In the U.S., ritonavir costs \$7,100 and lopinavir costs \$6,500 per person per year.

Said Abbott chairman and chief executive Miles White, "Abbott has taken this action to give the people most affected by this disease a better opportunity to access care. The next step in the global response is to develop the infrastructure necessary to deliver effective treatment." Abbott has hired Irish consulting firm Axios International to provide the drugs and HIV test to governments and agencies that have the resources to distribute them. James Love, of the Consumer Project on Technology, said that Abbott's initiative "is a step in the right direction, but it is fairly limited," emphasizing that poor countries out-

side Africa also need affordable medications.

Also last week, Merck and Company offered Brazil lower prices for two of its AIDS drugs, indinavir (Crixivan) and efavirenz (Stocrin, marketed in the U.S. as Sustiva). Brazil was not included among the poorest countries that were previously offered drug price reductions. Brazil maintains a model treatment program that provides medications to all its citizens with AIDS, and already produces generic equivalents of several anti-HIV drugs.

Brazilian officials said in February that the country would begin producing efavirenz and Agouron's nelfinavir (Viracept) in June if prices were not reduced. The new price for indinavir will be about \$2.80 per person per day. Brazilian health officials called the price reduction "a victory in a year-long battle with foreign drug makers to cut the prices of vital AIDS-fighting medicines," but Paulo Teixeira

page 25 ►

Maryland about to protect gays

by Bob Roehr

Maryland is on the brink of becoming the 12th state to enact basic civil rights protections that include sexual orientation. The Anti-Discrimination Act of 2001 passed the state Senate by a vote of 32-14 last Tuesday, March 27. It is expected to clear the House of Delegates before the legislative session ends on April 9 and be signed into law.

Attention focused on the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee, a traditional roadblock for the legislation in the past. There are only four Republicans on the committee in the heavily Democratic Legislature, but they always had been joined by at least two conservative Democrats to bottle up the bill in committee.

This year, under intense lobbying by Governor Parris Glendening and grassroots efforts by the gay community, conservative Leo Green provided the final required vote. The bill moved out of committee by a 6-5 margin on March 20. To placate Green the commit-

tee adopted a series of amendments stating that the legislation did not endorse same-sex marriage or homosexual activity, or require the Boy Scouts to admit gays.

Six days later on the floor of the Senate, Republican Alexander X. Mooney led a filibuster to block a vote on the act. The 29-year-old, the youngest member of that body, continued to spout the antigay arguments of the religious right that he had offered in committee.

Two attempts to stop the debate failed, but after midnight, at 2:03 a.m. on March 27, the Senate broke the filibuster and a short time later gave initial approval to the anti-discrimination legislation. A second vote is required.

The governor has made passage of the bill a priority of his administration. In pressing for the measure, Glendening often recalled his brother Bruce, a 19-year Air Force veteran who had to hide his homosexuality during those years in the service. He died of AIDS in 1988.

"The Senate vote makes this an

historic day for civil rights," said Blake Humphrey. He is director of Free State Justice, the main gay rights group lobbying for the measure. More than half of gay and lesbian Marylanders already are covered by anti-discrimination measures enacted at the county and city levels.

Human Rights Campaign executive director and Maryland resident Elizabeth Birch called the vote "an enormous victory that sends the message that discrimination is not acceptable in Maryland or in society."

Also on March 27, the Illinois House of Representatives passed gay rights legislation, House Bill 101, by a vote of 60-55. A similar measure passed in 1993 but not in subsequent years. At that time it was bottled up in a Senate subcommittee in much the same way as it had been in Maryland.

Representative Larry McKeon (D-Chicago), the only openly gay member of the Illinois Legislature and the sponsor of the bill, called passage "simply about equal justice." The measure faces an uphill in battle the state Senate. ▼

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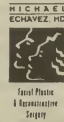
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Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

Pets are wonderful (and legal) support

by Bill Hirsh, Esq.

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel: I have had AIDS for over 10 years and I live in a cheap apartment in the Tenderloin. Lately I have been very stressed out and nervous and my doctor thinks I could probably benefit from having a pet. I used to have a dog when my health was better and I have always loved animals. Unfortunately, my building has a strict "No Pets" policy (not even cats). I really believe that if I had a companion I would feel much better but there is no way I can afford to move. What should I do?

Needs a Friend

Dear Needs a Friend:

Good news. You may be able to stay in your place and get that pet after all. Because you have a disability (AIDS), you are entitled to protection under both federal and state housing laws. These laws not only prohibit discrimination against people based on race, sex or religion, but also on the basis of disability and the law doesn't stop there. For people with disabilities, the housing laws require landlords to provide a "reasonable accommodation." A reasonable accommodation is basically a change in a landlord's policies or procedures so that people with disabilities can have the same use and enjoyment in their housing as people without disabilities.

In your case the landlord has a rule that prohibits pets. The landlord may have to make an exception (or a change) to that rule if

you can show that without a pet you would not be able to use the apartment in the same way as a person without a disability. Just think of a person who may have a visual impairment who needs a guide dog. Even if a landlord prohibited pets, she would have to allow the person with the visual impairment to have that dog because, without it, the person could not live there. In your case you will need a letter from your doctor stating that you have a medical need for the companionship of an animal. Many health care providers will readily agree that a companion pet can help people like you who are stressed out or nervous due to their disability.

Your ability to have a pet (in this instance the law calls them companion animals) will depend on whether you can get your doctor to agree that you need the animal. You will need a letter from your doctor and then you will need to ask your landlord in writing to provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should know a few more things. First, once you say that you have a disability, your landlord can then verify that you do have a disability. If you are concerned about disclosing your HIV status then you may want to be very careful how you proceed with your request. You might be able to get your doctor to craft the request so that you do not disclose the nature of the disability. Second, every determination will have to be made on a case by case basis. For instance it might not be reasonable to get a Great Dane puppy (no matter

how cute) if you have a tiny studio. But once you get that letter from your doctor your landlord would have a very hard time denying you your companion animal. Third, just because the landlord made an exception to the "No Pets" policy does not mean that you do not have to care for your animal. You will still be subject to the same lease terms that require you to maintain your unit.

Fourth, be patient with your landlord. If they have no idea these laws exist, they may think you're out of your mind to suggest that they have to let you have a pet even though they've had this policy for years. They may express all sorts of concerns about how everyone in the building will want pets and that they'll have to say yes now to all of them and their building will stink from pets. These concerns don't matter — all that counts is whether you, individually, qualify for a companion animal. If they do not listen to you right away you can contact ALRP at (415) 701-1200 and talk with an attorney who can try to help.

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Dear ALRP:

Yesterday I went to apply for an apartment at one of these new supportive housing programs. I have AIDS and I have been homeless and seen some hard times. I really need this place. They asked me all sorts of questions on the application. Some of them made me feel uncomfortable. They asked me questions about my mental health treatment and if I can live independently. What does that even mean? I used to get in-home supportive ser-

vices (IHSS) in the past. Can the landlord keep me from getting IHSS in the future?

Desperately Seeking Housing

Dear Desperately:

There is not enough housing to go around these days so I wish you luck getting into the new building. I know you probably don't want to start off by making waves, but some of the questions they asked you are problematic and may even be illegal.

The supportive housing program that you applied to may be funded to provide housing only to people with certain special needs (like people with mental illness or AIDS). If so, they can ask you to document that you have a special need that qualifies you for the housing. The simplest way to document your disability is to show a letter from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). This does not mean they can ask you a bunch of questions about your disability.

The question they asked you about living "independently" may possibly be a problem. All of us depend on others in order to make our way in the world. No one lives totally independently. Landlords can't ask if someone can live independently if this question discriminates against people with disabilities. Many folks need assistance with a variety of life activities and they cannot be denied an opportunity for an apartment. The program you mentioned, in-home supportive services (IHSS), really helps people with disabilities to live independently. That service is available to everyone who is disabled and receiving MediCal. No housing provider can prevent you from re-

ceiving IHSS.

When you apply for housing and a housing manager asks you a question about your disability, it puts you in an awkward situation. You may not want to reveal information about your disability because you are afraid that you will be denied housing because of it. However if you lie, no law says whether a housing manager can refuse housing to a person who has lied when answering a question about a disability even if the manager should not have asked the question. It is best to check with an attorney to determine if the question is illegal. To find an attorney, contact ALRP.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.alrp.org>. Do you have any questions you'd like answered? E-mail Ali Hall, ALRP client advocate, at: ali@alrp.org; for housing issues, e-mail Jason Stein, ALRP's housing attorney, at: Jason@alrp.org. ALRP can be reached at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 205 13th Street, Suite 2170, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461.



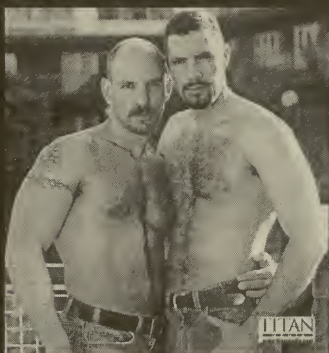
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An awful lot of pennies



Clark Sealy, left, from the AIDS Emergency Fund, congratulates new owners Mike Delgado and Nick Hodges as they continue the tradition at Spike's Coffees and Teas. Since 1995, Spike's has had a penny jar, raising \$51,106.30, more than any other single local business, for direct assistance for PWAs. Sealy also left a new jar dedicated to Rick Rodriguez, Spike's former owner, who died from AIDS last year.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Dennis Cizadlo



Dennis Cizadlo, at age 51, passed away Sunday, March 11 at his home in Naperville, Illinois, of liver cancer. He is survived by his partner John Lawrence, parents Albert & Myrtle, and seven

brothers and sisters.

Dennis grew up on a farm in South Dakota. He came to the Bay Area while serving in the navy, where he lived for 15 years. In 1986 he moved to Atlanta with John and then back to the Bay Area from 1994 to 1999. He loved to travel, fine wines, great food, antiques, and home remodeling. He was also a master with stained glass. He was an engineer at heart with a great sense of organization and style. His many friends

and loved ones have planned a celebration of his life on Saturday, April 7 at Miraloma Park Clubhouse by invitation.

Martin "Mark" Carl Costanzo

May 5, 1965 — January 16, 2001



Martin "Mark" Carl Costanzo was set free from all of his pain on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 after a brief battle with cancer, in San Francisco, California.

Mark was a very special person who, unfortunately, didn't know how much his family actually cared for him and will miss his presence dearly.

After living most of his adult life believing that the lifestyle he was destined with at birth was not totally accepted by his family, he chose not to be very much a part of it, right up until the day he was taken from us.

Mark will be dearly missed by anyone and everyone who ever knew him, and will never be forgotten.

The family would like to say "Thank You" to Thomas Jones of San Francisco, Mark's companion and Best Friend for helping him through his final days. God Bless You!

Mark is survived by his companion, Thomas Jones; his mother, Kathy Simpson of Provo, Utah; his father, George Costanzo of Reno, Nevada; three brothers, Tony Costanzo of Springville, Utah, Vince Hobbs of Pocatello, Idaho, and Lynn Porter of Scipio, Utah; one sister, Becky Revis of Provo, Utah; and nieces and nephews Zachary Costanzo, Shannon Costanzo, Bronsen Revis, and Miranda Revis.

We all love you and miss you dearly. We'll plan on seeing you on the other side, so save us a spot.

Robert Harlan



Robert Harlan passed away at home in San Francisco, March 7, 2001, at age 60, after a short battle with cancer. He was a noted pianist for the Palace, St. Francis, and Mark Hopkins hotels, and

restaurants Alexis, L'Etoile, and Harris over the last 20 years. Robert was a popular dinner party pianist to the great homes of Nob Hill and Pacific Heights.

He was trained at Arizona State University, Northwestern University, and the Chautauqua Institute of Music, and held both Masters and Doctorate degrees in piano performance from Northwestern. He was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Pi Kappa Lambda, and an active member of the Bohemian Club.

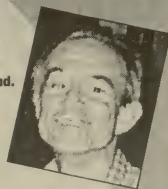
Born Merrill Robert Harlan, in Onawa, Iowa, he arrived in San Francisco in 1975. He was a private person, but his music touched everyone who had the pleasure of hearing him just sit down and play any piece without the need of sheet music. He could play anything. There was no one like him; his music remains in our hearts. He will be missed by us all.

Robert is survived by his mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert MacArthur of Glendale, Arizona; sister Margaret McPherson of Phoenix, Arizona; and step-sisters Marilyn Budd of Peoria, Arizona, Karen Lann of Bellingham, Washington, and Marcia Fischer of Ankeny, Iowa; and his friend and partner Joseph Frank. He was predeceased by his father Martin Harlan, and in January by his brother, David.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Kaiser Cancer Hospice, 4131 Geary Blvd., 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94118, or to a favorite charity. A private scattering of ashes took place on March 18, 2001.

Eulogy for John Summers

Winter, Spring, John Summers and Fall
Some of us will never forget what he did for us all.
I came here with nothing, like most of my friends
He promoted our beginnings, while he neared his end.



Some people loved him, some didn't understand,
Why he'd go hungry to lend you a hand.
If you had a problem, he'd lend you an ear.
Forgetting his own, he'd share in your tears.

If you happen to suffer from low self esteem,
Mr. John Summers brought reality to your dreams.
If there was no one left in this world to turn to,
Cadillac John was there for you.

I don't know what he contributed to the rich and secure,
But he was always generous to the homeless and the poor.

He made them feel useful, he made them feel proud.
He was our sunshine behind our dark cloud.

If ever you've felt like you've had nothing to give
Mr. John Summers restored life; he gave you a reason to live.

He was our counselor, he was our friend
The beginning he gave us has reached its end
Though if he were here with us, he'd say "Carry on!
Utilize my advice, long after I'm gone"

From Polk Street, from Patrons, from family and friends,
We'll miss you, we love you, 'till we meet again....

Jiml Kushmeder

Cuba's Castro offers low-cost AIDS drugs to South Africa

by S. Predrag

Cuban President Fidel Castro and South African President Thabo Mbeki have signed an agreement to cooperate in the manufacture of low-cost AIDS drugs while ignoring multinational drug companies' patents.

"We are very interested in the question of affordable drugs and medicines," Mbeki said after his meeting with Castro in Havana.

Mbeki, who recently ended his first state visit to Cuba, emphasized that, "The matter is critical to the provision of sufficient and adequate health care to our people."

Castro said that his country was already manufacturing "...those famous [AIDS] cocktails" and he claimed that he was ready to help Brazil and South Africa produce generic AIDS drugs and circumvent patent laws.

In an interview with local television, Castro challenged the multinational pharmaceutical companies to protest.

According to South African media, Castro said, "I would like to hear a protest so I can grin from ear to ear."

During his visit to Havana, Mbeki and his delegation toured Cuba's Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, which is believed to be the scientific brain behind the country's pharmaceutical industry.

So far, neither Cuban nor South African officials have disclosed any details of their proposed cooperation in the development and production of AIDS drugs. It is not yet known which AIDS drugs Cuba is already producing, except that Havana reportedly claims that the drug combination in question is "a

world-class quality cocktail."

During South Africa's apartheid era, Cuba opposed the former white minority regime and supported many liberation movements in Africa. In the mid-1970s, Cuba sent troops to several African countries, including Angola.

South Africa presently has the highest number of HIV-positive people in the world. According to the latest official figures, it is estimated that 4.7 million South Africans or one in nine are infected with HIV.

However, a local weekly, the *Mail & Guardian* stated that, "The true HIV infection rate may be closer to one in eight South Africans." Quoting reputable researchers, the paper reported that about 5.3 to 5.4 million people in South Africa are living with HIV, or about 700,000 people more than the latest government figures. It is believed that the number of HIV-positive people in South Africa is growing by 1,700 per day.

Meanwhile, a case brought by 39 multinational drug companies

against the South African government got under way in Pretoria's High Court on March 5. The companies are challenging Mbeki's government over its legislation that allows the license and manufacture of affordable generic versions of expensive brand name drugs. The case has been delayed until later this month.

Growing international criticism, coupled with an evident desire to prevent worldwide infringement of patent rights, has prompted some multinational pharmaceutical companies to offer AIDS drugs at substantially lower prices to the most affected countries in Africa.

However, an Indian drug manufacturer, Cipla Ltd., has offered to sell AIDS drugs at considerably lower prices to Doctors Without Borders for its work in Africa.

The Bombay-based company is offering generic versions of triple-drug therapy cocktails for the treatment of AIDS at a price of \$350 per person per year. ▼

AIDS drugs

◀ page 23

of the country's AIDS program said that Brazil's "attempt to master the process for producing [efavirenz] and other drugs will continue." Earlier in the week, Merck threatened to sue Brazil's Far-Manguinhos laboratory for patent violations for importing a generic version of efavirenz from India for research purposes.

Finally, on Thursday, April 12, ACT UP/Philadelphia and other AIDS activists will hold a demonstration at the office of the new U.S. trade representative, Robert Zoellick, in Washington, D.C.

ACT UP's actions against the Clinton administration's trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, and against former Vice President Al Gore are credited in part with Clinton's decision to issue an executive order that the U.S. will not use its trade laws to restrict African countries' access to necessary medications, a policy the Bush administration has said it would continue. The upcoming action will serve as a send-off for activists heading to Quebec City to protest the Summit of the Americas, which will consider the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement, which will likely contain provisions governing patents and intellectual property. ▼

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Pokey-man

by Jim Provenzano

Sometimes a story comes along that seems too silly to be true. When it breaks on April 1, you have to check your sources, again and again. So I dug deep. I probed the Net from end to end.

Last Sunday, Australian rugby player John Hopoate (pronounced hop-o-wotty) announced his resignation from the West Tigers club.

His resignation followed widespread publicity after the National Rugby League judiciary a week before handed down a 12-match suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Hopoate, a winger, was suspended for jabbing his fingers into North Queensland players' anuses.

"I sincerely regret that anything I may have done has caused stress, anxiety, and disappointment to everyone involved with the West Tigers," said Hopoate in a press statement.

He didn't say anything about the stress on the anuses of his opponents. The burly Australian, born in Tonga, probably has very thick fingers.

"I am distressed to think that I have been the center of controversy creating intense media attention that has reflected adversely on the image and morale of the West Tigers Club."

To say nothing of being the butt of jokes worldwide. "The Vildest Act Ever!" spews reactionary Web site, Sportal.com. One Aussie newspaper cartoon depicts a ref being asked about how to "clean up the sport" in light of the anal incident. The ref's retort: "Rubber gloves for players."

The most recent example of Hopoate's goose-shitting can be viewed on RealPlayer at <http://www.leaguehq.com.au/league/teams/tigers.html>.

Those who are technologically limited should know that in the video clip, Hopoate is lying on the ground as an opponent squats over him, presenting what to any fired-up gent might seem a ripe target of friendly horseplay.

Hopoate quickly thrusts two fingers up and around the edge of his opponent's shorts, apparently in an effort to upset the guy, or demean his manhood.

Fingered

Having had his digital entry captured on Fox Sports hastened the most recent scolding from sports officials. Hopoate's career is spotted with drunken fights, rough conduct on and off the field, and two other incidences of anal probes. Before a strong career with the West Tigers, he played for the Manly Eagles.

Hopoate said his resignation had been accepted and he would make no further comment on the matter.

"My only request is that my family and I be left to get over the events of this traumatic week and our privacy be respected," he told the press through his manager, a Mr. Wayne Beavis. Yes, after finger-fucking opponents on the field and on national television, a man deserves his private time.

Asked if Hopoate's rugby league career was over, Mr. Beavis replied: "We haven't discussed that. He's very emotional. He's not in a position to be sitting down talking about what he's doing for the next six months."

No, one would imagine he'd be in a different position.

West Tigers coach Terry Lamb had to explain why he and his players laughed at footage of Hopoate jamming his fingers up the backside of Dragons player Craig Smith.

As the club was poised to sack Hopoate, Lamb told the *Sun-Herald* he thought the dirty tactics were "funny" when he saw footage at a club video session.

Lamb and his team were increasingly amused as they watched the Smith incident several times. Tigers players said Lamb held the remote control at the video session.

"We thought it was just a gee-up," said Lamb. Readers may feel free to offer other examples of "gee-ups." I can think of a few.

Mr. Lamb, however, has also been canned in light of his not admonishing Mr. Hopoate for his



John Hopoate, fingered

cornholing habits.

Two others players on the West Tigers team, Craig Field and Kevin McGuinness, have also faced heavy fines, but not for butt abuse. No, they're just drug addicts. How boring.

Prostatement

NRL judiciary commissioner Jim Hall described Hopoate's case as the worst he had experienced in his 45-year involvement in rugby league.

"I've never come across a more disgusting allegation than I've had to deal with now," he said. Apparently, he's never attended some of the rugby player parties, where well-documented nudity and pranks are de rigeur.

Hopoate, 27, was found guilty on three separate counts of deliberately sticking his fingers up the anuses of Peter Jones, Paul Bowman, and Glenn Morrison in a match at Dairy Farmers Stadium.

Hopoate, a former Australian test winger, insisted he was merely trying to give Jones and Morrison a wedgie in order to perform a quick play-the-ball.

Asked by his counsel Bernie Gross, QC, where he was directing his finger at Bowman, the Cowboys captain, Hopoate replied: "Between his arse and his nuts."

Hopoate maintained he did nothing wrong in administering the wedgies and went on to say: "I'm a great believer in what happens on the field should stay there."

Does this mean he advocates public sex?

Wedgie high

Asked to describe what a wedgie felt like, the Tigers winger replied: "You get a burning sensation. Your undies are getting reeferd up your arse."

Hopoate's defense counsel

contended to Jones that his client had merely administered a "wedgie" on the Cowboy in the seventh minute of the match.

"It wasn't a wedgie. That's when your pants are pulled up your arse. I think I know the difference between a wedgie and someone sticking their finger up my bum," said Jones. While both acts caused discomfort, they caused different sensations and he could differentiate between the two.

In the end the NRL judiciary had little trouble differentiating between a "wedgie," a "finger up the arse," and the area between the "arse and the nuts" before finding Hopoate guilty. The kangaroo court did not proffer video footage of the reenactments, exhibits, or displays of the injured bums, but undoubtedly amused the council of repressed crones envious of such sporty prostate exams.

Despite the ruckus over the rump antics, Coach West said, "Regardless of everything that has happened, I'll go into the board meeting and more than likely back Hoppa."

He did not say whether he would turn his back end toward "Hoppa."

He and other players did admit that the anal explorations had become a regular event in training, where fellow teammates did not postulate posterior predicaments.

Popo music

They actually invented a ditty about Hopoate sung to the tune of "True Blue," an Aussie pop song, apparently (not the Madonna song of the same name). Any randy Aussies in the Bay Area who'd like to offer a rendition are welcome.

"One knuckle or two.

Is it me or you.

Should I get the props.

Wouldn't that be tops.

Or should I get the half.

That would be a laugh."

Despite having become a bum legend, Hopoate has been stunned by the enormity of his actions, asking his closest mates: "Why is this happening? I thought it was just a joke."

Yes, it is, especially in a sport where scrums include ball-grabbing, shorts-ripping tussles between hunky, chunky men with rumps like sides of beef. This is a sport where ripping a man to the ground by his ears or mouth is rarely called by refs, where padding is only what's on your body, and helmetcams and other XFL gimmicks aren't needed, as the action never stops, even in the after-match hot tubs and locker rooms.

But dare to wiggle a digit up a muscled butt, and you're outta here!

Coach Lamb has come under fire from within Tigers ranks for encouraging an alcohol culture in the club, which was a complete contrast to the one pushed by former coach Wayne Pearce. Players often take part in drinking games in Lamb's hotel room after away games. No telling where fingers end up there.

Hello, Sailor

Another player, Wendell Sailor, says he complained to a judge and warned Hopoate that his fickle finger would get him into trouble three weeks ago.

Sailor had been "jabbed" by Hopoate when the Broncos played the West Tigers at ANZ Stadium.

"At first I was very surprised," Sailor told the Aussie press of his own encounter with a Hopoate digit. "I had to have a look [who did it] and it was Hoppa. He he



Hoppa on poppa: John gets his goose

just stood there and smiled at me. I looked at him and said 'What are you doing?' The second time he did it to [teammate] Mick De Vere, and I complained to the touch judge and he [Hopoate] was laughing about it again. I think he got me a third time and after that I said: 'You're kidding, mate. You're going to get into trouble.' It's one of those things, if you say something and the judge or the ref doesn't say anything, you just don't know what to say as a player. But I didn't appreciate getting sodomized anyway."

No, Hoppa should limit his pokes to consenting sodomites.

Rump roast

Former player Paul Harragon, a sports writer for the *Newcastle Herald*, recalled a similar incident in his autobiography, *One Perfect Day*.

"Brad Clyde was taking the ball up early in the set of six as he usually does and was tackled by two British opponents. One of these was their five-eighth and captain Garry Schofield, who for some unknown reason had a secret tactic for slowing down the play-the-ball. Just as mysterious as his reasons for saving his methods exclusively for Brad Clyde."

"As Brad rose to play the ball, you could clearly see Schofield's hand fiddling around the back of Brad's shorts. When he found what must have been the intended target areas, Schofield drove what appeared to be three large English sausage fingers right up where the sun don't shine. Apart from feeling violated, Clyde produced the slowest play-the-ball of his career."

"Walking gingerly to the next scrum, Brad complained about the incident to the rest of the Australian forwards but none of us could quite believe him. But on Brad's very next run, Schofield appeared to go out of his way to be involved in the tackle."

"Again making no attempt to disguise his tactics, Schofield went straight for Brad's tender spot and wasn't mucking around this time. Having softened up his opponent the first time around, the British skipper rammed home his intentions by adding an extra digit to the previous intrusion and lining it up with even more force."

"A crestfallen Clyde lay prostrate on the ground looking up at referee Dennis Hale through watering eyes. He went to lodge an official complaint but thought better of it when he realized he would have trouble providing evidence of the unusual attack."

"What was he going to do? It would have been different if he had a bite mark to produce but he could hardly ask the referee to dust the area for fingerprints." ▼

For more sports literature at its best, visit <http://www.mymidude.com>, in the sport where butt play is simply called "checking the oil."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Application is: Gochez Gina Marie, Maia Taylor Azevedo, Silva Rogerio Marcos. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: **41-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE**
DATE: MAR. 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247204
The following person(s) are doing business as: California First Mortgage Co. 445 Baker Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Howard Louis Gaddy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.
MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247197
The following person(s) are doing business as: Time For Flowers & Gifts. 50 Persia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cherrie Maxwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.
MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246999
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rockworks Productions, Inc. Rockworks Management, Rockworks Publishing, Rockworks Records. 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. #C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terry J. Smith, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.
MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247207
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mylene's Hair Salon. 4008 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mylene Carol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.
MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319408
In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, For change of Name. The application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Lawrence Ross has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Matthew Shelton Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319057
In the Matter of the Application of Teri Gyi Spivey, For change of Name. The application of Teri Gyi Spivey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Teri Gyi Spivey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Grace Spivey-Gyi Templeton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0221434
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rockworks Productions, Terrytons Music Publishing. 5700 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 18, 1998. This business was conducted by: a individual: Terri James Smith
MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247422
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sister Spit. 235 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cynthia Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247352
The following person(s) are doing business as: Last Resort Fund. 187 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Paul Causey, Exec. Director. The Tenderlon AIDS Research Center (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247430
The following person(s) are doing business as: Storyline Productions, Geller/Goldfine Productions. 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Daniel B. Geller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247334
The following person(s) are doing business as: Embarcadero Vendors. 201 Harrison Street, #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Nicholas E. Mabs and E. Louise Mabs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 01, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/09/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247505
The following person(s) are doing business as: American Taxicab. 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Philip Achilles, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 08, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/16/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247378
The following person(s) are doing business as: J.H. Tiffany and Associates, Inc. 1667 Turk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed James H. Tiffany. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 05, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/01.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319886
In the Matter of the Application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui. For change of Name. The application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yuchiu, Ng Mui has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Yee, Sannifer Ng-Mui Chiu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 29 APRIL 5, 12, 19 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is: Kirkpatrick Kil Sun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1196 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. Type of license Applied for: **48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES.**
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319074
In the Matter of the Application of Walter Allen Anderson, For change of Name. The application of Walter Allen Anderson, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Walter Allen Anderson, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wly Anderson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319637
In the Matter of the Application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, For change of Name. The application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Molly Kathryn McGinn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0232046-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Storyline Productions. Located at: 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Daniel B. Geller.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0232047-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Geller/ Goldfine Productions. 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Dayna L. Goldfine.
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0227529
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: American Taxi Cab. 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 12/16/1998. This business was conducted by: an individual: Philip Achilles
MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246400
The following person(s) are doing business as: Salt Branding, LLC. 88 Guy Place #401, SF, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed David L. Neugebauer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01-01-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on Jan 31, 2001.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247600
The following person(s) are doing business as: Pacific Coast Mat & Matting Co 2060 Cesar Chavez S. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a individual signed Claudine M. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on March 21, 2001.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247593
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rug Wrestlers 1240 Geneva Ave #1 SF, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Arturo M. Espindola Jr., De Angelo D. Dove Sr., Michael A. Hickerson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/21/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247024
The following person(s) are doing business as: Julie's Deli and Restaurant 4689 Mission St. SF., Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Minh Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/27/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247557
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Phoenix Bar & Restaurant 811 Valencia St. SF., Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Eugene Francis Power, Paul Cornelius Campbell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247616
The following person(s) are doing business as: Privilege, Club Privilege 858 48th Ave. SF., Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mohsen Z. Salehi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/22/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247362
The following person(s) are doing business as: Circus Center, National Circus Center 755 Frederick St., SF., Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Patrick Olson Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/12/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247567
The following person(s) are doing business as: BBB Towing 1522 Silver Ave. SF. Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a individual signed Najib Yaser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247560
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Collision Works 2340 Lombard St., SF., Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Paulo F. Dos Santos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 243578
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pacific Coast Mat & Matting Co. 2060 Cesar Chavez SF., Ca. 94080. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 8/01/2000. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Claudine Bailey, Alfred Lieberman.
MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319458
In the Matter of the Application of Carlos Alberto De La Pava for change of Name. The application of Carlos Alberto De La Pava for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carlos Alberto De La Pava has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carolina Andrea De La Pava. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247744
The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Martin De Porres Dispensary 350 Divisadero St. SF., Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a non profit corp, signed Wayne Justmann Director/Presiding Bishop. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/01.
APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247183
The following person(s) are doing business as: Pure Music 35 Bonita St. SF., Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a individual signed Paul J. Liszewski Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/05/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/05/01.
APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247766
The following person(s) are doing business as: Eureka St. Pictures 285 Eureka St. SF., Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a individual signed James Joseph Arnold. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/29/01.
APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247707
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fresh Catch @ Pac Bell Park 24 Willie Mays Plaza, SF., Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a corporation California Foods Inc. signed David Collins, co-owner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/28/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/01.
APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 313338
In the Matter of the Application of Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafaraji Rejali for change of Name. The application for Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafaraji Rejali for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafaraji Rejali has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jason Michael Rejali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

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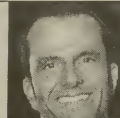
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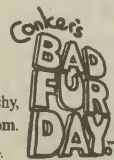
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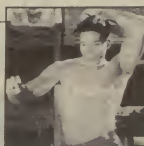
San Francisco Symphony Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt does Carl Nielsen.

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Boy doesn't get boy

Brian Shepp's Castro scene in 'Gypsy Boys.'

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Gay sex guide

'Sex Tips for Gay Guys' tells the naked truth.

page 44



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 14 • 5 April 2001



Straight man David Schmader

Crossing over

David Schmader plays 'Straight'

by Richard Dodds

God works in mysterious ways. Why, He even sent happy homosexual David Schmader to a conversion ministry so he could write a play that would lead more of the sexually confused back to God. Never mind that Schmader says his intention on infiltrating the group was to "see what really makes these idiots tick." Those being examined still declared his play a "victory" and "fabulous publicity for the ex-gay movement."

Those latter characterizations were offered in a press release from Exodus North America after Schmader's play *Straight* was written up in the *Los Angeles Times*. The full-page newspaper ads placed by Exodus International in 1998, and the hue and cry they provoked in the gay community, convinced Schmader to go undercover as someone looking to shed his homosexuality.

He reports on his experiences in his one-man play *Straight*, first staged in 1999 in Seattle, where the El Paso native has made his home since leaving college. Schmader, whose earlier works include *Letter to Axl* and *Exploring Whoring*, makes his San Francisco debut this week in *Straight* at Theatre Rhinoceros.

How does he feel about Exodus' claim that his play is a "victory" for its cause? "If anyone comes away from one of my shows thinking that the ex-gay movement is great," Schmader said, "they deserve what they get."

But, he hastened to add, he did not go into this project to create a diatribe against those promoting the promise of conversion to unhappy homosexuals. "It was about building bridges to the enemy to see what was going on," Schmader said. "Gays have been objectified by others, so we think it's our right to objectify right back. Someone has to be a grownup in this situation."

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Still **horny** after all these years

Falcon Studios is going strong at 30 by John F. Karr



Legendary Falcon stars Casey Donovan, Al Parker, and Dick Fisk in *The Other Side of Aspen I*, the first film to be released on DVD by Falcon Studios

Those were the halcyon days," Bob Ross said to me recently of the 1970s, and not merely because he was talking about the days of his youth. The years following Stonewall were an exciting onrush of gay possibility, as gay life for the first time was openly lived, with an almost wanton celebration. Any gay man, whether pursuing politics or pleasure, was an activist. So were the businessmen, whose gay-owned and -run organizations changed the face of commerce. One of these men is BAR founder and publisher Ross, who created the nation's long-running gay weekly out of "a bar rag." Another, perhaps less known by name than by his product, is Chuck Holmes of Falcon Studios. Like the BAR, Falcon was founded in 1971 and this month celebrates its 30th anniversary.

When Holmes died of AIDS-related complications last September at 55, his company was the largest gay-owned producer of erotic films in the world, releasing approximately 25 videos a year on four separate lines, maintaining the sophisticated FalconStudios.com website, and marketing the expansive Falcon Accessory Line, which includes what the industry comically calls "marital aids," like lube, anal

beads, and the pioneering Signature dildo collection. A unique fact about Falcon is that it is the only porn company that functions as a philanthropic organization. After salaries and business expenses, profits from the company's sales go to the Chuck Holmes Foundation, whose trustees administer the funds to the causes that Chuck believed in and gave to so generously during his life.

"That is absolutely unique in porn," said John Rutherford, the company's 37-year-old Director of Production and now, succeeding Holmes, President of Falcon Studios. "Chuck was unique, too, in the porn industry, because of his philanthropy. He was a very giving person, and always wanted to give back."

Corn to porn

Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, Holmes was "corn-fed," Ruth said. He had a difficult time coming out, which fueled his desire to represent gay sexuality to younger men. But that came much later. He started his career with no thought of porn. After earning a degree in Business Administration from Indiana State University, Holmes went to work for a

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and the Barbarks

Happy birthday to us! In this age of media conglomerates, corporate boot-licking and in-flight gay magazines, isn't it nice to know that after 30 years, ye olde *BAR* is still community-based, independent-minded, and proud to be frank?

Plenty of movers and shakers showed at the *BAR* anniversary party last Sunday at the Club Rendez-Vous, but none more astonishing than the **Lord Mayor Willie B.**, who, for a photo op, leaned in and kissed elderly honoree and *BAR* columnist **Sweet Lips** — on the lips! More, certainly, than Out There would have done!

"The *BAR* is an institution, and Sweet Lips is an institution," proclaimed Da Mayor.

"She belongs in an institution," observed one partygoer.

We kept hoping the Club R-V's famed **Men of Exotica** strippers would show, but they never did. Perhaps hoof-and-mouth disease has spread farther than we knew!

Interiors

Seems the *nouveau vogue* among *SF Chronicle* editrix-queens with some small taste of power is to go *wild* and redecorate their petit offices in ways that say: "I am a tasteful queen!" If only they did in fact have taste! We've heard horror reports of walls painted turquoise (tacky), chrome furniture (pretentious), little rainbow flags (sad), and other claptrap. Could they all secretly aspire to be interior decorators? The capper is one power queen proud to display a framed print of clowns — floating clowns — just like **Chagall!**

Silly tunas, **Sharon Stone's** husband doesn't want queens with good taste, Sharon Stone's husband wants queens who taste good!

Deep ouiji

This week, Out There visits the lives of the poets. They're just like any other kind of celebrity, except they can read!

Great genteel gay poet **James Merrill** is enjoying a posthumous boomlet right now, what with his



Gay poet James Merrill in 1952

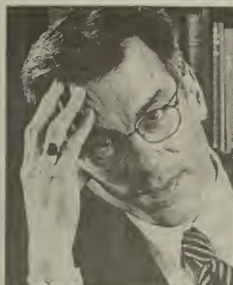
Collected Poems out this spring from Knopf. It's an impressive tome, bringing together all of Merrill's output except for some juvenilia and his epic ouiji voyage *The Changing Light at Sandover*. (Commentators often make *Sandover* out as being too occult for words, but we found it a page-turner with real narrative drive, and deeply satisfying as poetry.)

The Merrill volume is a deluxe affair, with a **Chip Kidd** jacket design, a \$40 price-tag, and a lavender ribbon for place-keeping! It's certainly reaped critical attention. In a feature in *The New York Times*, critic **Mel Gussow** observed that Merrill "regarded himself not as a gay poet but as a poet who was gay. In his memoir, *A Different Person*, he reflected on societal attitudes toward homosexuality, describing 'the classic account of [actress] **Sarah Bernhardt** descending a spiral staircase — she stood still and it revolved around her.' He commented, 'My good fortune was to stay in one place while the closet simply disintegrated.'"

Greek top

Brace yourself also for a new wave of interest in the work of modern Greek poet **Constantine P. Cavafy**, whose collected poems have just been published as *Before Time Could Change Them* (Harcourt), the largest collection of the late poet's work to appear in English.

The poems represent a colossal effort by translator **Theoharis C. Theoharis**, and gay readers owe him our thanks. The heretofore standard edition of Cavafy's poems, translated in the 1940s by **Rae Dalven**, toned down the sexuality (homo) of his love poems.



Translator Theoharis C. Theoharis

In a foreword to the new book, *eminence gris* **Gore Vidal** calls Cavafy "the **Pindar** of the one-night stand between males." The book includes many such odes, including "Days of 1909," "10," and "11," in which Cavafy writes of a sailor's son: "If there was something he wanted badly, some tie just too expensive, some tie for Sunday, or if in a window he'd seen and pined for some shop's blue shirt, lovely, for five drachmas, or ten, he'd sell his body."

Vidal notes that poet **W.H. Auden** "suspected that the passionate encounters Cavafy describes are largely one-sided because the poet no doubt paid for them. Although it is true that the grave soldiers at the [Greek bar] Nea Zoe expected a small payment for their company, the business transacted was always mutual, and the double nimbus of accomplished lust can be spectacularly bright in a shadowy room full of Arabian furniture..." Of Gore does go on, but we needn't follow suit.

Style salon

English decadent poet **A.C. Swinburne** is dallying in close quarters at the Café Flore. One of the women by his side stops smoking long enough to speak up. "Everyone knew when smack was hitting the city, because **Art Brut** would be standing on his chair, then dancing on the table. You'd see him get higher and higher, and you'd know the government was flooding the populace again. He was sort of a barometer of smack, that poet."

"Smack that poet!" Her friend likes her own joke, laughs through volumes of smoke. "That's where he was the night he was mowed down, standing on that table,

shouting, 'God save the Bill of Rights!' Wow, what good scene. Of course, it was gross when he started bleeding. But the busboy wiped up."

The women go back to their cigarettes. They are the **Maxell twins**, heirs to the fortune in magnetic tape.

Swinburne learns his café lesson fast and turns his attention away, in an exaggerated roll of the eyes. Outside, the chill of the night has fogged the glass sidewalk dividers with condensation. Swinburne stifles a shiver. He cannot help himself giving voice to an impulse.

"Outside, it must be winter among men. For at the gold bars of the gates again, I heard all night and all the hours of it: The wind's wet wings and fingers drip with rain."

"That's good, man," says café-sitter **O. California**. "You write lyrics?"

Swinburne says yea. "You ought to meet a friend of mine who produces videos. He could hire you on spec."

At this first appreciation of his great gift, Swinburne comes out from behind the reserve of his epoch and speaks his first words of 20th-century consciousness. "I love your coif," he says.

"Yeah well, it used to be enough to collect **SSI** in this town." The smart young broche affects a pose.

"Really," Swinburne says, his admiration for this brave new society growing. He is about to inquire about the patronage of poets when a small carafe of a man passes by, followed by his entourage, carrying coffee.

One of them squawks: "Oed-ips! Whatever have you done with your hair?"

The claque seats itself in a far corner before Swinburne's tablemate can give reply. Young California seethes *sotto voce* to the poet. "It's impossible to remain anonymous in this city! Sometimes I simply yearn to return to New York."

No matter that the closest famous idler has come to living in New York was his semester at Rutgers. Swinburne is impressed. In a voice given to exquisite phrasings of universal intimacies, he asks whether there is a privy on the premises.

[Tune in next week for the thrilling conclusion.] ▼

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Laugh, gay clown, laugh

Cracking up with P.A. Cooley

by Richard Dodds

P.A. Cooley was wondering if it was really a good idea to call himself P.A. Cooley in his new show. "He's more like my evil twin," Cooley said, "and some people might think I'm really like that."

Cooley is the star of *The P.A. Cooley Show*, opening this week in the Studio at Theatre Rhino, and he described his onstage persona as "scheming and manipulative and so self-involved that he can barely see a foot in front of his face. And he's thinking with his dick half the time."

Cooley is playing the host of a TV comedy show, and the audience gets to see both the "on air" sketches and the behind-the-scenes action. "It's got a little bit of a *Noises Off* thing going on, because the chaos of the backstage situation infiltrates itself onto the onscreen sketches," Cooley said.

Writer Matt Weimer and director F. Allen Sawyer have actually concocted two episodes of *The P.A. Cooley Show* that will have separate runs. *The P.A. Cooley Spring Spectacular* will play for three weeks, when it will be replaced by *The P.A. Cooley Fitness Fantasia*. And there is a patriotic-themed episode in the works if the first two click with audiences. "I would love for this to keep going on," Cooley said, "maybe use it as a moneymaker for Rhino."



P.A. Cooley: supergay

The shows take place in a kind of parallel universe where it's a given that a TV star could be gay. "He's not just gay," Cooley said. "He's supergay, and everyone knows it."

It's an exaggerated variation on the kind of character that has been Cooley's trademark since arriving in San Francisco from his native Vermont a decade ago. Among Cooley's notable performances are the queeny Buzz in *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, the queeny Peg in *Desk Set*, and the queeny Jean in *Rhinoceros*.

"Back in the old days, they called it a line of business," Cooley said. "It's like the sassy, smart-mouth queen who's always got a quick answer for everything. Some people might think of it as limiting, but I'd be perfectly happy being known as a Paul Lynde or a Charles Nelson Reilly. Those guys are as funny as hell."

At one point early on, he thought of *The P.A. Cooley Show* as a way to bury this character. "You know, play it for all it was

A scene from *The Full Monty*, coming to the Best of Broadway series

worth and then never do another character like that," Cooley said. "But that's what I'm good at, and it's not like I don't have a good time playing him. But I don't want it always to be the gay clown, and I'm looking to make him more real."

But you may have to wait until after *The P.A. Cooley Show* for any added doses of realism. "With this," Cooley said, "I just want people to have a good time. It's all about making people laugh. That's my favorite thing in the world, to crack people up."

For tickets to *The P.A. Cooley Show* call 861-5079.

Tour guide

Stars, spectacle and even a big dollop of the serious comprise the 2001-2002 Best of Broadway season for San Francisco.

The star category includes Ann-Margret in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Vanessa Redgrave, unquestionably a star, also headlines with brother Corin in one of the serious entries in the series, Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. August Wilson's *Jitney* and Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* are other entries geared toward those who like their entertainment to also exercise their gray matter.

Disney's *Aida* will help provide spectacle, while *The Full Monty* is content to provoke laughter. The current Broadway revival of *Kiss Me Kate* will be replicated in a touring production starring Rex Smith and Rachel York. A revival of *South Pacific*, star or stars to be announced, completes the subscription series. The gay-friendly *Mamma Mia!*, which set box office records in San Francisco, will make a non-subscription return in September.

Subscriptions to the eight-show package are \$265-\$599, and will be available beginning April 1 by calling 551-2050.

Political games

The Berlin Wall hadn't yet fallen when *Chess* opened on Broadway in 1988, but the writing was on the wall. The Cold War tensions that had fueled the story behind a concept album and a successful London run were largely spent by the time the pop opera made it to America. Despite a revised book by the talented Richard Nelson (*Goodnight Children Everywhere*), the expensive Broadway edition expired after several weeks.

But the score has always had its admirers, and these fans as well as

the merely curious will get a rare chance beginning this week to see what *Chess* looks like on stage. Mind you, it won't look like what it did on stage in New York or London, for it is part of New Conservatory Theatre Center's few-frills In Concert series.

It will be the score by composers Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (of ABBA and *Mamma Mia!* fame) and lyricist Tim Rice (*Evita*, *Aida*) that will receive most of director/music director George Quick's attention. Two songs, the woman-to-woman duet "I Know Him too Well" and the disco-flavored "One Night in Bangkok," achieved life outside the musical.

next page ►

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Mama's boy

Eifman Ballet's 'Russian Hamlet' gets dripping wet

by Stephanie von Buchau

Last year I had a good time dissing the Eifman Ballet's *Tchaikovsky*. It was the equivalent of Big Macs — 60 billion sold to happy customers. Audiences love melodramatic kitsch, and so do some critics. The Eifman press kit is identifiable by region: The closer to a big city, the less likely the critic is to gush. Except in New York, of course, where Clive Barnes and Anna Kisselgoff apparently think (if that is the operative word) that Eifman is God's gift to choreography. They keep comparing him to Petit and Béjart.

First of all, anyone who equates Petit and Béjart is looking at dance with an extremely narrow vision. They really aren't anything alike. And Eifman isn't anything like either of them. Eifman's *Tchaikovsky* didn't remind me of anything I'd ever seen before (or hoped not to see again), but it did have its campy, homoerotic moments. (The New York dance gossip wire suggests that the married Eifman has a thing for his brooding young star, Igor Markov, but I say that unless they are going to do it on stage, I don't care.)

Eifman's latest work, commissioned by the Bolshoi Ballet, where it was seen in 1999, is called *Russian Hamlet* — *The Son of Catherine the Great*, which played the Palace of Fine Arts last weekend. Catherine's the one who supposedly liked equine sex-play, a rumor alluded to a couple of times in Eifman's choreography. Her eponymous son, Paul I (an Eifman child as a boy and Markov as a young man), was one of Russia's worst Tsars, but then his German mother set a terrible precedent. (Yelena Kuzmina) was an ambitious minor German princess who may have had her husband (Tsar Peter III) murdered so that she could take over the throne.

Lonely boy

In Eifman's not-too-historical version of the facts, Paul is a lonely, unappreciated child who fails to "realize his potential" in the deadly, Oedipal clutches of his overbearing mother. (Joan Crawford could have played the part to perfection.) I found Eifman's *Tchaikovsky*, wrestling with homoerotic passions, more entertaining (and easier to choreograph) than Paul struggling to



Igor Markov as Prince Paul in Eifman Ballet's *Russian Hamlet*

overcome his Mama fixation. The bottom line is that Eifman's *Russian Hamlet* doesn't remind one of Shakespeare, Petit or Béjart as much as it does of Kenneth MacMillan's *Mayerling*.

Mayerling, if you've never seen it — I think it played only once in the Bay Area, in the '70s at Berkeley Community Center — is the sordid story of Archduke Rudolf, mesmerized by his coldly beautiful mother, Austrian Empress Elizabeth. Rudolf sought relief from his unresolved erotic tensions first in drugs and then by taking a bourgeois mistress with whom he forged a suicide pact. Set to Liszt orchestrations, *Mayerling* is mostly smelly garbage, but...sprinkled throughout the unseemly pile are half a dozen electric pas de deux. MacMillan, an expressionist of bad taste just like Eifman, found sensational ways to meld two human bodies together for maximum sick expressiveness. You can smell the decay.

You can in Eifman's choreography, as well. Furthermore, MacMillan was lucky because he had as muse the divine Lynn Seymour, a Canadian diva so emotionally

bruised that her various balletic (and personal) torments were intimately shared with her choreographer (with whom she had an intense love-hate relationship like that of Ballet Theatre's Sallie Wilson with Antony Tudor) and with her fans. Those who "got" Lynnne were like those opera filiberts who adored Gwyneth Jones, the identical kind of nutsy *monstrée sacrée*. However, if you didn't "get it," you will be forever convinced that the fans were the nutsy ones.

Dripping wet

Eifman, lucky man, has three muses — the lean, glamorous, spring-steel-spined Kuzmina (who played *Tchaikovsky's* neurotic wife last year), Markov (about whose stamina too much cannot be said; he is dripping wet at the end of two hours onstage, and I wouldn't be surprised to learn that he dropped half a dozen pounds in the process) and Albert Galichanin (who played *Tchaikovsky* last year and this time is sex-on-the-prowl as a composite of Catherine's many lovers). These three dancers do everything Eifman asks of them

with bravura speed, elemental expressiveness and — despite the lack of pure classicism — superb technique. (Otherwise they'd be laid up in splints all the time.) They are so convinced that what they are dancing is great art — when in fact it is usually just pretzel-making of architectural genius — that they almost convince the Stringent Viewer.

Stringent Viewer, alas, having been a balletgoer for half a century, has seen it all before; doesn't enjoy bleeding chunks of Beethoven (first, "normal" act) or Mahler (second, "hallucinatory" act) as a poorly-amplified soundtrack; can admire Slava Okunev's architecturally-skewed set and opulent costumes without wanting to see them displayed on phalanxes of corps dancers all jiggling in unison; and hates Martha Grahamish employment of draperies. Eifman, significantly, thinks Graham is America's greatest choreographer; it probably looks that way if you've been sloshing in Soviet motor oil for 50 years.

Only one of these "props" worked. Three dancers covered in a huge black sheet, on which is mounted a skull-like head, do a duet (or is it a pas de quatre?) with Catherine in one of her tormented "Why did I kill my husband?" moods. Kinda like Gertrude and the elder Hamlet's ghost. Well, not really. Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but only if your audience doesn't recognize the superior source material. Far from being a Big Mac like *Tchaikovsky*, Eifman's *Russian Hamlet* is like that ersatz cheese that resolutely refuses to melt. ▼

Backstage

◀ previous page

The story uses a chess rivalry between a Soviet chess master (Noel Anthony Escobar) and an American challenger (Alex Brose) to create a metaphor about politics. Corrie Borris and Brenda Reed play the women in their lives. The script that NCTC is using comes from the 1988 Broadway production.

"There have been some later revisions in 1992 in New York City at the Masters Theatre, and quite recently a concert in Sweden going back to the original concept album," Quick said. "All have their merits and weaknesses, but I'm quite pleased with the Broadway version we are using."

For more information on *Chess*, which runs through April 29, call 861-8972.

Prize fight

Did your tickets to the Oscars get lost in the mail? Are you boycotting the Tonys until they finally give *Victor/Victoria* an award? Well, you can still get your may-I-have-the-envelope-please excitement at the 24th annual San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards gala.

The open-to-the-public event takes place April 16 at the Palace of Fine Arts. In addition to presenting awards to the best of the past year in local theatre, the evening will feature numbers from seven nominated musicals. Plus, the San Francisco cast of *Stomp* will open the show with its brand of rhythmic commotion.

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DANCE

Beauty moving in space

ODC Dance Co.'s 30th anniversary season

by Michael Wade Simpson

Choreographers in America are like spermatozoa in utero: a mass of competing talents swimming upstream toward an impossible goal. Every once in a while the egg gets hit, a company is born and thrives, the work lasts. But most just dance around wildly for a few years and then give up. No funding, no rehearsal space, no audience, what's the point?

What are the odds, then, that a band of dancers from Oberlin College who hit town in a yellow school bus in 1971 would still be here today; that their dance company would be announcing a 30th anniversary season not just on telephone poles, but freeway billboards; and that they would own their own rehearsal studio and be eviction-immune? The sperm-and-egg metaphor only goes so far. Oberlin Dance Collective didn't just luck out. It's more a story of endurance and talent, art and pluck.

Brenda Way, an overachiever, was teaching modern dance at Oberlin College and started a magazine and an interarts program in her spare time. The Collective was an outgrowth of her efforts, a hippie love thing where everyone made dances and danced in each other's dances, according to KT Nelson, one of the originals. They would hop in the school bus and take their show on the road every summer. After a few summers of this, they decided they needed to leave Ohio altogether. San Francisco called, a natural choice at the time, as free and as far from the New York dance establishment as they could be.

And then it almost fell apart. The Collective disintegrated at the time the decision was made, back in 1980, to get a bank loan and buy a rehearsal/performance space, after being evicted from their first studio on Mississippi Street. The 12-person Collective turned into a 3-choreographer dance company that hired dancers. Way, Nelson and Kimi Okada built a new creature, a professional dance company. When they finally hit the road again, it

was to begin touring internationally. The level rose, the stakes got higher, the reputation grew, the work got tighter.

Today, ODC is one of the biggest-budgeted modern dance companies in the US, able to offer 43-week contracts to 10 dancers, including health coverage. That's an amazing achievement. What, exactly, happened? Ask Way or Nelson, they don't really know. They just kept working. They seem, in conversation, more focused on the day-to-day than on the building of reputation, more interested in the work, in the personalities and dynamics of the company, than in posterity. There was no overnight success. It was more like 10,950 days at a time.

Tangled web

Asked to throw out 30 words that describe those 30 years, Way and Nelson offer terms like "endurance, friendship, vision, teaching, tangling and untangling, ungraspable moments." The last sounds just right as a summation of dance and the dancing life. It's the career that offers no future, the art form that leaves no evidence. Thirty years is just a number. It's not any more real than yesterday's dance.

Audiences know that when they come to an ODC performance they're going to get full-throttle dancing, beauty that moves out in space, dancers who are more like jungle creatures than balletic wisps. "We are more interested in technical dancing than some, more interested in exploring a range [of choreographic possibilities]. We work to develop a movement language that is down-weighted, [offers] sex de-stereotyping, men who are nuanced and women who are strong," said Way, attempting to describe the ODC style. "Our work has an affirmative spirit, it moves rather than makes shapes, it's like our philosophy about living."

Nelson reflects on the anniversary by framing the ODC story as a choreographer would, in terms of space and performance venues, "from outdoor performing, to school and loft performing, to

17th Street [ODC Dance/Gallery], to Herbst and Yerba Buena." One of her obsessions over the years has been to figure out how to break through people's inability to "get" dance. Modern dance can be too intimate, she says, it can press people's buttons, bring up deep-seeded feelings. "People don't want to look at icky stuff." That doesn't, however, stop her from showing it.

"It's easy to understand sex and violence," she says, but dance is about texture, image and phrase, and these kinds of subtleties tend to be lost on viewers. Try to watch the work, she suggests, like you'd watch a boxing match, not just with your eyes, but with your body. You may not "get" it, but your body will.

Downtown dance

So what is the Oberlin Dance Collective up to for their anniversary celebration? There was a season in New York recently, performances at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, a documentary film in the works, and a 74-page book of photographs and writings. The annual performance series at Yerba Buena, *Dancing Downtown*, runs April 7-24 with new works and old. There will be a Family Matinee performance on Saturday, April 7 at 2 p.m., designed to introduce children to the beauty of live performance, with low-priced admission for kids and parents, and a curtain talk with the



ODC/San Francisco's Artistic Directors Brenda Way and KT Nelson

dancers and choreographers. For those who work downtown, an unusual opportunity presents itself on Wednesday, April 18 at Noon, when the company puts on a lunchtime performance, a quick hour of great dancing for \$10.

Premieres this season will include *24 Exposures* by Way, a piece which she and Nelson believe may become a perennial favorite. It features music from the Ap-

palachian recordings of Mark O'Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, and Edgar Meyers, and celebrates the trajectory of the dance company's stylistic development over the years, from natural to virtuosic movement, from form to feeling.

House of Cards is a dark piece which Nelson choreographed on the theme of obsession. *How To Track a Hurricane* uses a sound

page 44 ►

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You gotta have friends

'Hit and Runway's creative forces pal it up

by Brandon Judell

It's early morning in New York's trendy Mercer Hotel's lobby. A gay man and his straight buddy are eating overpriced eggs and coffee.

The guy into same-sex orgasms is Jaffe Cohen, founding member of the Funny Gay Males and co-author of *Growing Up Gay: From Left Out to Coming Out* (Hyperion).

Christopher Livingston, the hetero chap with a bit of chest hair sticking out over his collar, is more famous at the moment for his lineage than anything he's accomplished. His mom's Nancy Olson, William Holden's love interest in *Sunset Boulevard*.

B.A.R.: Did she fool around with Holden?

Livingston: I'm sure she kissed him. I know she kissed him on-screen.

Chris's dad was president of

Capitol Records in the '60s, signing up both the Beatles and the Beach Boys; responsible for Bozo the Clown; and producer of *Bonanza*. His uncle co-wrote the Doris Day hit "Que Será Será," and his stepfather Alan Jay Lerner gave us *Camelot* and *My Fair Lady*.

B.A.R.: Have you considered selling your sperm over eBay?

Livingston: Could I raise money for my next film that way?

These two guys, the very Jewish, acerbic, small-framed Jaffe and the hunky Chris, have pulled together their talents to create the often very, very funny *Hit and Runway*, a comedy about the relationship between Elliot (Peter Jacobson), a small, gay Jewish guy, and Alex (Michael Pardo), a straight Italian hunk, who are trying to write an action screenplay together.

One of the stars is Dawson Creek regular Kerr Smith, who plays a Gentile waiter who gets turned on by Jews, especially loud

ones. When we mentioned Smith also played a gay in *Broken Hearts Club*, Jaffe notes: "I didn't even see that. At this point, I hate to say it, I'm so uninterested in movies that are just about gay people with other gay people. I think we've said everything we need to say about how gay people treat each other. I want to see more films about hamsters."

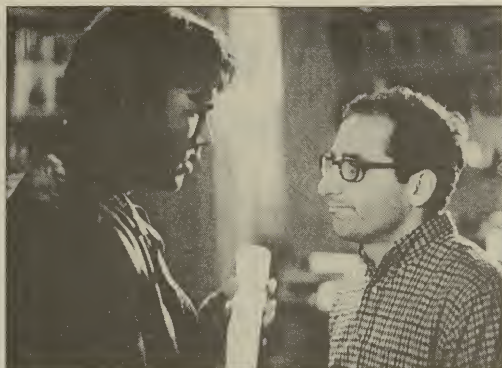
Let's get physical

Parts of *Hit and Runway* seem clearly autobiographical. Indeed, the two friends first met at New York University, when Jaffe showed up in a dress to read a Christopher Durang monologue for a short film Livingston was directing. It was creative love at first sight.

"The characters look like us also," Jaffe acknowledges. "Elliot is small and wears glasses, and Alex is large and kind of puppy-dogish and so physical." Turning to Christopher, he continues, "You look like Alex. I think Elliot is more identifiable with me, but Alex does some things that you do. Like when Alex has an idea and asks Elliot, 'Do you like that?' with a hopeful look in his eyes."

"I would say there are a lot of similarities," Christopher concurs. "Another is that Elliot is an optimist. He believes in what he's doing. So does Jaffe. And Jaffe, though he's not a cynic, has the same cynical wit."

"I don't think I'm cynical," Jaffe
next page ►

Michael Pardo and Peter Jacobson in *Hit and Runway*

Play it again, Hollywood

Gay and straight together in 'Hit and Runway'

by David Lample

Hit and Runway is a new comedy about the unlikely friendship that breaks out between a hunky Italian would-be screenwriter and a terminally nerdy, underachieving gay Jewish playwright. A kind of thinking man's *Kiss Me Guido*, *Hit and Runway* reaches for more than it achieves. Thanks to a plucky cast, however, it manages to score a lot of laughs from a flawed premise. The *Guido* trick or rather *shit*ick is to create a carnival sideshow in which both straight and gay filmmakers can find over-the-top parodies of each other. It's a mixed-up, screwball world where everybody is reduced to a mildly offensive stereotype, so that nobody comes away feeling especially picked on, and a member of one tribe can wind up in bed with a member of another.

Alex Andero (Michael Pardo) wants to write a Steven Seagal-like splatter film, only to discover he can barely write at all. As luck would have it, Hollywood seems to be panting even for bad ideas, and so Alex finds himself needing to have a polished script on an agent's desk in about the time it would take him to master the screenwriting software. So how do the barely literate manage to write? With a little help from their betters. Enter Elliot Springer (Peter Jacobson), who loathes the very idea of Alex's Rambo-knockoff movie idea.

Kerr Smith (young Jack McPhee of *Dawson's Creek* fame) proves the comic icebreaker as a gay boytoy who seduces Elliot out of his self-deprecating funk and into saving Alex's lousy script. Smith's Joey, the film's most underwritten and best-realized conceit, is given only two funny things to work with, a 13-letter Polish surname and a libido fueled by Yiddish-sounding words. He's a Hebrew National ad in a Ben and Jerry era.

On TV, Smith plays semi-closeted jockboy McPhee like a middle-aged, life-fearing kid. Conversely, he does the older and very out Joey all loosey-goosey and odd Annie Hall-like. Since Jacobson looks and sounds a bit like a much younger Woody Allen, we're set to laugh, at first almost from embarrassment for the actors. Then, suddenly, the scene ac-

tually catches fire, and we're relieved to be laughing for the saucy, sexy glee of it all.

Gore child

In *Hit and Runway*, co-writers Jaffe Cohen and Christopher Livingston (who also directs) use their fictional action gorefest (whose clumsy staging is the film's low point and almost its undoing) as a creative love-child, the raising of which will nurture the most unlikely of bonds between Alex and Elliot. In the course of things, Alex, who probably couldn't spell integrity, will desperately try to prove he has some.

There are problems galore with this device. The film Alex wants to do is cheesy to the core, and Elliot's fiddling only adds a better brand of crackers. Cohen and Livingston allow the low-budget execution of their framing film to pollute the film we're watching. The star to whom Alex is pimping his idea is given a porn-model name, Jagger Stevens. The role cries out for a deft send-up of a Schwarzenegger-like action hero, but instead male model Hoyt Richards gives Jagger all the wobbly panache of a bad Elvis impersonator, undermining the credibility of the switcheroo ending. J.K. Simmons saves the day somewhat with his gleeful sadist of a studio head, who treats his writers' brains like all-you-can-eat sushi.

In gay life, Elliot tells Alex, there's an elaborate caste system that prevents guys like him from making it with pretty boys like Joey. We accept Elliot's good fortune with his *shiksa* boyfriend faster than we get his brain-drain writing combo with a putz like Alex. At its best, *Hit and Runway* is a nervous spoof of gay Jewish dating rituals, in which the last man a guy can trust is his rabbi. Most of the screenwriting scenes seem somewhat stogy, although there is a droll moment when a priest ignores Alex's confession in favor of quizzing him about the "needs" of his protagonist. Jacobson's Elliot starts to work for us when we stop seeing him as a kind of Woody stand-in and begin to like the bashful, needy guy who tries to switch his mantra from Portnoy's Complaint to *The Power of Positive Thinking*. ▼

Hit and Runway opens Friday, April 6.

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FILM

Hit and Runway

◀ previous page

retorts. "I'm more fatalistic. I would say I'm more like, 'Whatever will be, will be,' as opposed to, 'No, you create your own distinct future, and you make it happen, and you do whatever you want.' I kind of barely can envision what I want for lunch."

But what about attire? Does Chris wear extremely tight jeans like Alex, with his appendage prominently displayed on the left? "Do you want me to stand up?" Chris laughingly asks.

"No," B.A.R. laughingly lies.

What about all these Gentiles attracted to Jewish boys in the film? Does his religion help Jaffe to get laid? "Enough for me to figure out that character," Jaffe shares.

But since there are clubs for chubby chasers and people into Asians, and so forth, shouldn't there be one for Christians who yearn for kosher lads?

"It's called Canada," Jaffe explains. "I'm a comedian, and I travel around. I grew up in places where Jews hardly exist, or if they did, the Jews were quiet. They're not like loud New York Jews. So I discovered that in places like Canada or Ohio, where people are more shy or withdrawn, when a loudmouth Jew comes into town, they'll just literally roll over backwards. I find that hilarious because though I love being Jewish, I never think of it as a sexy religion."

"But then with sex, it's always the opposite," he adds. "I tend to be attracted to people who are either from Finland or Jamaica. Similarly, people who are very quiet and good manners, they're just thrilled by an irreverent Jew-

ish person. I've had enough of those experiences. I call these folks Judeophiles."

Beck and call

Turning to Chris, B.A.R. notes that nowadays many straight guys think their gay counterparts are having sex 10 times a day with 10 different guys. Is he envious of this "supposed" gay lifestyle? Or does he, being a director, have enough females at his beck and call?

Before he can reply, Jaffe butts in, "Well, first of all, he hangs out with me. So from my example, he sees being gay doesn't mean you get more sex."

"No, no, I don't feel that way," Chris finally gets to answer. "I definitely date. I definitely meet people. I actually met somebody that I'm liking a lot. To be honest with you, my parents are still married, so I'm ultimately looking for a really great relationship in my life. Over the course of the years, I've been searching for that. But I've had no real problem as far as sex is concerned. I meet a lot of women, so I'm not envious. Maybe in my wildest fantasies, I've thought it'd be nice to have girls like all over me 24 hours a day. That would be kind of fun, but I think it would get tiring after a few days."

"He has the hots for Jeri Ryan of *Star Trek*," Jaffe pipes in.

But what about San Francisco? Since your film is opening there, have you had many pleasant memories in the City of Love?

Chris suddenly lowers his voice and turns quite serious. "I had a romance there. I dated this girl, yeah." But he refuses to go on.

Jaffe, not to be left out, blurts out, "I don't remember getting laid there, but I do recall a hot tub in the Noe Valley. I have lovely memories of that hot tub." ▼

Fast-food gay flick

'Gypsy Boys' at the Roxie

by David Lamble

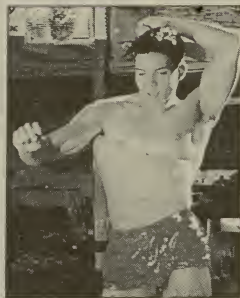
In the opening scene of *Gypsy Boys*, Brian Shepp's homegrown shaggy-dog comedy about Castro dating rituals, three winsome lads debate the merits of how champagne might taste sucked from the erogenous zones of a fourth, even cuter friend. *Gypsy Boys* doesn't get any deeper than that. Opening Friday at the Roxie Cinema, it's a movie to see on a first date, a movie to make out to, a movie where missing the good parts won't matter because whatever you talk about on the way home, it won't be this movie. With dialogue that sounds overheard at the Cafe Flore and scenes that can be witnessed any night at the Stud, *Gypsy Boys* plays like Gay 101 at the Harvey Milk Institute and could double as a horror flick at the next Lyric meeting.

The basic story and several scenes from *Gypsy Boys* would make a funny boy short, but at 103 minutes the boy-doesn't-get-boy saga feels like 72 hours in a hell of our own invention. Before he stopped making gay films, before he stopped being gay, Gregg Araki had a wicked knack for bitchy, self-conscious, -absorbed, -loathing, abrasively sarcastic gallows humor of the kind in desperately short supply in this movie. Araki was nasty, cruel, out of control and very quotable. *Gypsy Boys'* banter tends towards a generic kind of butt joke that need

not be reproduced here.

The good news is that *Gypsy Boys* delivers a few nicely nuanced performances from local actors. Alberto Rosas quietly sizzles as Cuban boy hunk Manny, frustrated by his inability to get more than a platonic fling with brainy Aaron (writer/solo artist Zeke Wheeler) due to Aaron's "relationship" with Noel (Andrew Abelson), Aaron's British boyfriend, who cheats on Aaron his first night in town at a party in front of Manny. In the film's best-staged scene, Manny, his back to the lovers, subtly reads Noel to filth without hurting Aaron's feelings. Like Walter Matthau in *The Fortune Cookie*, Rosas' Manny appears to be talking right to the audience without actually breaking the fourth wall and resorting to direct address. Rosas also possesses a Benicio Del Toro-like ability to reach sublime emotional states without benefit of dialogue. Abelson nimbly pulls off his faithless loverboy role, giving an added bit of pleasure to those who remember his Lothario boulder in a superior and much funnier film, the British-made *Boyfriends*.

Tom McCann also shines as sidekick Kevin, whose fantasy of catching bar hunk Scott (Greg Crandall) is sent up in several wittily executed fantasy scenes with Scott appearing as a vampire lover, swordfighter or knight in shining armor. Although sitcom in style, the fantasy scenes give *Gypsy Boys* a much-needed subplot and partial-

Steve Rodriguez in *Gypsy Boys*

ly compensate for director/writer Shepp's anal-retentive fixation on the plight of sensitive, relationship-oriented prettyboys struck by a fatal attraction for short-attention-span pass-around party-bottom prettyboys. Also, why doesn't anyone in this film have outside interests: jobs, laundry, best women friends or pets to attend to?

For some, *Gypsy Boys* might be a relatively painless reminder of their all-too-quickly sown wild oats — without the bar bills, puffy morning-after faces, or the obligatory hungover brunch with last night's bedmate. And it is nice to see something created in the neighborhood that has a real whiff of the 'stro about it. Ultimately, a taste for fast-food gay film is no worse than the itch for cafe poetry or garage bands. ▼

Gypsy Boys plays the Roxie April 6-12.

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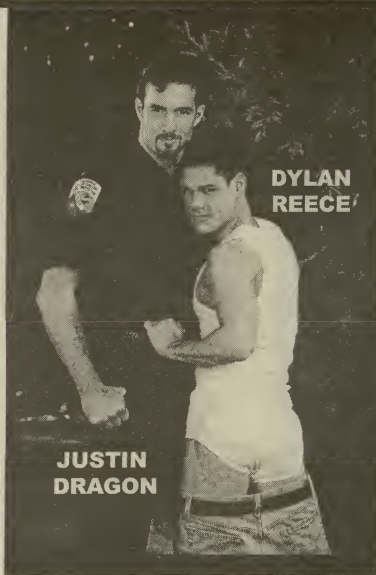
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Lust for the unattainable plays out in an operatic version of *Queer*

'Queer' at ODC

William Burroughs' autobiographical novel *Queer* surges into readers' veins with raw honesty, breaking down any resistance to wallowing in a squalid homosexual affair drenched in alcohol and narcotics withdrawals. Its intentions are brutal: to speak plainly yet vividly the pathos of addiction to another kind of drug: one-way desire; one-sided love; endless futile hoping. Countless gay men have willfully embraced such defeating lust, giving in to the big shrug; hell, it's a lousy life with no reciprocation of affection, so why not binge in Mexico with a kid who's willing to get screwed but who could care less whether or not his lover drowns in his own vomit?

Perversely, *Queer* is a poignant love story. A deadpan-funny kind of self-loathing love oozes from the chief protagonist, William Lee, and splatters all over the desirable but callous Eugene Allerton, and it is precisely Allerton's resistance that evokes the novel's pangs. One-sided-love's angst never was more grittily portrayed than in Lee's pathetic longings and posturings. One-sided desire somehow balances Lee's soul and gives him an excuse to drink. Allerton is the Yin to Lee's Yang, the one necessary to complete the other.

Those familiar with the novel will be attentive to the tone set by composer Erling Wold in his operatic version of *Queer*, which opens Wednesday at ODC Theater. Wold calls his piece a chamber opera; critics can only hope the production renders the story seriously, if musically, rather than slipping into soap opera territory.

Wold makes clear he intends to stick by the tenor of the novel, and has not rewritten *Queer* to suit his musical ends. He and collaborator John Morace have constructed a libretto using Burroughs' own words. The text is held sacred—a promising sign.

The operetta presents an opportunity and challenge for actor/singer Trauma Flintstone, playing the story's principal character, Lee. A drag-vaudevillian heretofore seen in lighter fare, Flintstone has been a frequent performer at such talent showcases as "Dirty Little Showtunes," "Feast," "Viva Variety," and the TGSF Millennium Cotillion. The step from cabaret to *Queer* is a giant leap for transgenderkind.

The high production values in Wold's *Queer* may help establish a more serious reputation for Flintstone, who will have solid support not only in the libretto, but in the stage direction by Jim Cave, choreography by Cid Perlman, and music conducting by Deirdre McClure. With Wold on guitar, Marja Mutru, on keyboards, Jab on trumpet, Tom Swafford on violin, and Ashley Adams on bass and guitarrón, Flintstone will be at liberty to be as flinty and monomaniacal, in a musical way, as Burroughs' wrote his character to be. ▼

Queer runs Wed.-Sat., April 11-14, and Thu.-Sun., April 19-22. \$18. 8pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

Kathleen Antonia and Anna Maria Luera in *Marisol* at Exit Theatre. Friday.

Fri 6

ATA Gallery

The GLBT Historical Society and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the SF Main Library present "Footage from the Archives," clips from archival films and videos, including images of the Black Cat Café and The Ramrod, home movies, political demonstrations, and performances by Sylvester, Tribe 8, The Empress Jose, and the Cockettes. The DJ styling of Sister Kitty will enhance silent footage. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. (at 21st St.). Info: www.atastite.org; www.glbthistory.org

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: jazz guitarist Mimi Fox, known for moving gracefully from lyrical ballads to scorching blues to blazing bebop, just returned to the U.S. from a three-month tour in Japan where she was enthusiastically embraced. She'll be doing an unusual evening of "unplugged" guitar, with a special emphasis on some of the great women composers who have contributed long-loved standards to American music. \$20 adv.; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: Barbara Price Productions, (510) 339-1832.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

La Madonna Nera, a play by gay Italian American author, playwright and social activist Tommi Aviccoli Mecca. Set in South Philly in 1964, *La Madonna Nera* reveals the imagination of a 16-year-old Sicilian American girl who is seeing visions of a dark-skinned Madonna. Her continued insistence that this beautiful woman is coming to her, and her cousin's persistent attempts to discredit her, open up several wounds in her family's tumultuous past. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. Also on April 13. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: 554-0402.

Kaiser Permanente Divisional Offices, Oakland

Out and Equal Pride Power Breakfast: "Issues for Transgenders in the Workplace." Three transgender community leaders share their experiences with transition from one gender to the

other. With panelists Cecilia Chung (M to F), Yosenio Lewis (F to M), and Gina Eichenbaum (M to F), moderated by JoAnne Keatley. \$10 donation at door. 8-9:30am. 1950 Franklin (one block from 19th St. BART station), 2nd floor, Oakland. Info/RSVP: (415) 439-4272; email selisse.berry@theunitedway.com.

Exit Theatre

"Marisol," by playwright Jose Rivera, directed by Jonathan Gonzalez, part of Absurdist Season 2001. The play asks: "What if our guardian angels waged a war in Heaven against a senile old God who is dying and taking the rest of us with him?" It tackles spiritual crisis, social issues, American angst at the turn of the Millennium, and new visions of a hopeful future. 7pm. \$12. Thru April 11. 156 Eddy St. Tix/info: 673-3847; www.sfringefringe.org/exit.html

SomArts Theater

Flyaway Productions presents "Maybe Grief is a Good Bird Flying Low," an apparatus-based danced choreographed by Jo Kreiter and performed by seven women. Kreiter's dances challenge preconceptions about women's physical limitations. Her work explores the idea of femininity through risky, often airborne dances. \$18. 8pm. Fri.-Sun., thru April 22. 934 Brannan St. (at 9th St.). Tix: 934-1070.

Sat 7

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: *Chess*, a light rock opera, first seen on Broadway in 1988, with a killer rock score. Book by Richard Nelson (*Goodnight Children Everywhere*); lyrics by Tim Rice (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, etc.); music by Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (both of ABBA and *Mamma Mia!* fame). Music direction by George Quick, with David Dobrusky on keyboards. Based on the 1972 world chess championship match that pitted American Bobby Fischer against Russian Boris Spassky. \$16-\$32. Thu.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 861-8972.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

An aching in god's heart, a play by gay Italian American author, playwright and social activist Tommi Aviccoli Mecca. Set in South Philly in the early 1990s, the play investigates a family's struggle with love and loyalty. Sofia, the faithful daughter, has given up her life to take care of her elderly parents. But since an old flame has returned to her life, she is torn between her own dreams and her obligation to *la famiglia*. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. Also on April 14. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: 554-0402.

The Adelphian Center for the Arts, Alameda

In concert: singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield, whose masterful style proved a hit on the recent Boz Scaggs tour, and who is hard at work on a follow-up album to the well-received *Living A Dream*. This will be the gay heart-throb's one Bay Area concert in April before he departs on an East Coast tour. Sharing the stage will be Natasha Miller, a master of jazz, pop, blues, showtunes, and original folk music. The Adelphian Center is a new performing-arts venue housed in an historic mission-style building with a beautiful auditorium and spectacular acoustics. 7pm. 2167 Central Ave. (at Walnut), Alameda. Info: (510) 748-8181; www.theadelphian.org; www.garrin.com

Small Press Distribution Warehouse, Berkeley

Open house: featured readers include gay poet D.A. Powell, author of *Lunch* (Wesleyan, 2000) and *Tea* (Wesleyan, 1998). A graduate of Sonoma State University and the Iowa Writers Workshop, Powell has taught at USF and SFSU. He has received awards from the Academy of American Poets and the James Michener Foundation. 20-50% off all books in the main warehouse. Free. Noon-4pm. 1341 7th St. (off Gilman), Berkeley. Info: (510) 524-1668; www.spdbooks.org

City of Refuge

"It's About Us," a forum on HIV/AIDS in the African American Community, presented by City of Refuge United Church of Christ in collaboration with Project Inform. 2-4pm. 1025 Howard St. (entrance on Harriet). Info: 861-6130.

Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C

Opening reception: "African & African American Hair as Sculpture," paintings and photographs by Hillary Younglove, presented by the SF African American Historical & Cultural Society. Younglove has traced the continuity between what used to be highly symbolic hairstyles from the rich traditions of Africa to everyday styles in America. \$2. 5-8pm. Bldg. C-165. Info: Vandean Philpott, project coordinator, 441-0640.

California Club

Emperor of SF Tom Bash and Empress Chablis and The SF Imperial Court present the Court's annual "Investiture," a ceremony to induct Emperor, Empress, Crown Prince and Princess into their newly created Court of Infinite Possibilities. This year's theme is "Slumber Party." Participants encouraged to wear night gowns/sleep garments (no actual sleep over will occur; dress code not enforced). \$15. Doors open 6pm; show at 7pm. 1750 Clay St. Info: Mark Paladini at 292-9808.



On exhibit at Fort Mason Center: Hillary Younglove's paintings and photographs of "African & African American Hair as Sculpture." See Saturday.

HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshops & class: "Investing in Mutual Funds," with Louis I. Dagan (\$45; 10:30am-4pm); "Sexual Radiance: For Women," with Midgett (\$20; 10:30am-1:30pm); "Foundations of Flirting for Gay/Bi Men," with Jamie Moran (\$30; Noon-4pm); and "Thai Language and Culture for Queer Travelers 201," with Siribenja (Ben) Khowadhana & Saninuj (Pong) Sawadikosol (5 Saturdays; April 7-May 12; 2-4pm; \$115 + \$10 materials fee). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema makes a cheesy splash with Memphis maestro J.M. McCarthy's "Superstarlet A.D." (16mm, projected on video), sci-fi-a-go-go set in the lost city of Memphis, where all men have de-evolved into deadly Neanderthals and all women have banded into marauding rival beauty cults: the dumb platinum blonde PlayRays, ruthless brunette Satanans, and ill-tempered redheaded Tempests. At stake are rapidly dwindling supplies of lipstick and ammunition. With 1955 stag-film flick "Teaserama." \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890; www.ataste.org; www.othercinema.com

Film Arts Foundation

"The Anti-Fraud Show," a benefit for the Film Arts Foundation facility, featuring projections, BBQ, beer, and live music by Jonathan Richman (1pm), Persephone's Bees, The Cubby Creatures and more. \$10-\$15 sliding. Noon-6pm. 346 9th St. (at Folsom). Tix: 552-6350 or at Lost Weekend Video.

Build

"den of sonick illbience," featuring Lambskin 13 (laptop/f/x guitar duo), Control R Workshop (rolling improv from East Bay), Modularset (3 piece intense improv loud and proud), Deep Dickcollective (queer boys doing hip hop), and spoken word with beat legend Harold Norse. Come to the gathering and let your freak flag fly. "den of sonick illbience" happens every first Saturday of the month at Build, a tiny, very hip venue in the Mission. \$5. 1-5pm. 483 Guerrero (at 17th St.). Info: 621 6205.

Sun 8**PFLAG/St. Francis Church**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays host Paul Gabriel, board member of the GLBT Historical Society. Free. 2-4pm PFLAG support group (all welcome); 3-4pm program. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

Briones Regional Park, Orinda

"Gay Men's Hike," led by East Bay residents Bob Kewess and Steve Adams. Come explore rolling green hills, wildflowers, oak trees and plenty of blue sky and fresh air in the secluded and underused Briones Regional Park. Join other gay outdoor enthusiasts to hike, mingle, connect and have lunch along one of the many hillside with great sweeping views of the surrounding area. Meet at the North Berkeley BART station at 10am and carpool from there. Info: Steve at (510) 528-6353.

Artistry For Hair & More, Walnut Creek

"Cut-A-Thon," a fundraiser to benefit the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County. Salon owner Art Healey and staff will be offering a shampoo, haircut and blow-dry for \$25; a haircut for \$15; and chair massages at \$1 per minute. Get clipped for a good cause. 1525 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Call for appt.: (925) 932-2242.

Mon 9**Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret**

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Maureen Brownsey, with Erin Souza, David Guiney, Regina Stoops, Maggie Dolan, Tessie Chua, Bridget Schwartz and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686



Flyaway Productions presents *Maybe Grief is a Good Bird Flying Low* at SomArts Theater. See Friday.

Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610.

Tue 10**Intersection for the Arts**

Poet, musician and activist John Trudell (AKA Graffiti Man) joins forces with Pulitzer Prize-winning author and activist Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*) in reading words from the different paths they have walked throughout their lives; the two will also speak to issues of contemporary spirituality and the power of words. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-2787.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

City Arts & Lectures presents Susan Sontag, one of the great thinkers and writers of our time, in conversation with Orville Schell, Dean of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. Among Sontag's profoundly influential works are *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, *On Photography*, and *Styles of Radical Will*. \$7.50 (\$3 UCB students). 8pm. Tix: Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or City Box Office at (415) 392-4400.

Main Public Library

Lecture: "Broadway's Gay Tune-smiths: A Look at the Life and Work of Cole Porter and Lorenz Hart," with Bonnie Weiss, presented by the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the SF Public Library and Musical Theatre Lovers United (MTLU). Porter will be the subject tonight, with Hart featured next week (April 18). Porter was the center of the social whirl wherever he went — particularly among the homosexual elite. He brought sensuality and sophistication to the Broadway musical in such smashes as *Anything Goes* and *Kiss Me Kate*. Free. 6-7:30pm. Koret Auditorium. Info: Hormel Center, 557-4566; MTLU, 552-2222; www.mtlu.org

Wed 11**Victoria Theater**

SF Premiere: "Shooting Porn," the stage comedy created by Ronnie Larsen, based on his hit documentary film, focusing on the gay erotic-film business. In this stage version, actors will portray the film's subjects. Starring Blake Harper and Jason Branch, two hot names in gay porn videos, who happen to be real-life lovers. Also in the cast of six, Larson plays Chi Chi

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Leather coast to coast

Seattle, Long Beach, & NYC

by Mister Marcus

The leather community from sea to shining sea was bustling last weekend, as busy as ever. It was impossible to be simultaneously in New York City, Seattle, Washington and Long Beach, California, where leather crowds converged. In New York there was a benefit auction. In Long Beach, there was a bar title. And in Seattle, there was a state-wide title. Since I was invited more than a year ago to judge the Mr. Washington State Leather contest, it was my pleasure to fly to Emerald City for another edition of that state's highest leather title competition.

Five men vied for the title in Seattle. We met them at the meet & greet on Friday night at the Cuff Complex, which was celebrating its eighth anniversary. This year's edition of the contest included contestants from Eastern Washington, and it was a great selection: Michael Chappell from Spokane; Brian Hollenbeck of Spokane; Kevin Goodwin of Renton; Louis Kahn of Bellevue; and Leonard Jenkins of Everett.

Judges Lenny Broberg (head judge), Aubrey Hart Sparks, Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Tony Frazier, Craig Kelso, Todd Nelson, Shelly L.L. Starr and myself by no means had an easy time of it, choosing from this dynamic group. The contestants easily endured the interview process, the presentations of formal wear and speeches, the physique competition, and the judges' questions about leather image.

This year's production was dedicated to the memory of the late Scott Rodriguez, who guided many people through the lifestyle of leather and contributed to his community in an immense way. And he did that not just for the leather community, but for all of Seattle's factions. A video presentation celebrating his life was presented the night of the contest, narrated by Seattle's Emperor Emeritus George Ray as Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were" played in the background. Believe me, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The show opened with a dy-



In Seattle, the winners of the Washington State Mr. Leather 2001 contest were, left to right, Michael Chappell, first runner-up; Daniel Appelgrein, the winner; and Kevin Goodwin, second runner-up. They were chosen last Saturday night, March 31, at the Cuff Complex.

namical dance troupe in a fantasy production; later on, the "Wuzzies" produced another, and somewhere in between a former empress did a hot number as Frank Nowicki kept the show going in his inimitable style.

Dave Rhodes presented Judy Tallwing McCarthy with her Forebear Award from Pantheon, and other awards too numerous to mention were presented to movers and shakers in the Seattle area.

Finally, at around 2230, the scores were tallied and the envelopes were brought to the stage. Joyous outbursts erupted as the results were read: Mr. Washington State Leather 2001 is Daniel Appelgrein, a handsome gentleman who hails from Johannesburg, South Africa and has lived in Seattle for the past three years. The first runner-up was Michael Chappell from Spokane, and the second runner-up was Kevin Goodwin from Renton.

Mr. Appelgrein will compete at IML in May 2002. As it stands now, Craig Kelso, Mr. Washington State Leather 2001, will compete at IML this coming May. His stepping aside speech was only 14 minutes long, and he was thankful, appreciative and sincere throughout. Andy Mangels of Portland, Oregon, publisher of *In Uniform* magazine, won the National Emerald Award, one of Seattle's highest honors for a non-resident. More jubilation ensued.

Seattle is always great city to visit. If you stay at the Gaslight Inn, it makes it even more thrilling. It is a guest house without equal anywhere on this Left Coast. It was a treat, too, to hook up with San Francisco's first ever Leather Daddy's Boy, Jake Banks, and Daddy's Boy 1987 James Buhler. Oh my, children do grow up, and with each year they become even more handsome!

While in Long Beach

While all this was going in Seattle, another record crowd materialized for the Mr. Pistons Leather Contest 2001 in the northern section of Long Beach, California. The seven contestants were Jeffrey Cooper, Bruce Stewart, Keith Walsh, Daniel Vandenberg, Michael Gartzmann and Alex Marr. They faced judges Thom Dombkowski, Jill Carter, Mike Taylor, Jim Raymond, Will Hildreth, Fred Katz, Bob Pedder and Dave Barton.

Details are sketchy, but the show opened with our own Queen Cougar warbling a sterling version of the National Anthem. Scott Bloom and Sean Reilly co-emceed the event in a tribute to the Oscar Awards, a la *Gladiator*.

When all was said and done, Daniel Vandenberg was declared the winner; he also received the "brotherhood" award from his fellow contestants. The first runner-up is Alex Marr (also dubbed Long Beach Mr. Leather and Jeffrey Cooper will compete at American Brotherhood Weekend

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 5

Mr. October 2002 on the SOMA bare chest calendar will be chosen at the Powerhouse tonight at 2130. New judges. Win \$100 cash and discover an easy way to volunteer.

Weekend, April 6-8

Mr. Boston Leather 2002 will be chosen at the Boston Ramrod on Saturday night, with a whole lot of shenanigans before and after. Bob "Puppy" Pedder passes the sash to a successor.

Friday, April 6

Boot Night at the Loading Dock, sponsored by Stompers, from around 2100 to closing. It's Crotch-High Boot Night, and bootlickers and boot-pigs will be rewarded if they perform correctly.

Sunday, April 8

Underwear Night benefit at the White Horse Inn, put on by Mr. Alameda Co. Leather Jeff Miranda, 2000-2200, with a 50/50 raffle, a drawing, and an underwear auction.

Wednesday, April 11

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. You

know the time, the rules and the play operandi. If not, call 863-HEAD.

Friday, April 13

If you find yourself in Norfolk, Virginia, the only action around is the Virginia Mr. Drummer & Drummer Boy contests at The Garage bar, at 2300. Winners will compete at Mid-Atlantic Drummer competition.

Weekend, April 13-15

Mr. Russian River Eagle contest at that bar this weekend. Details not sent out, but you can bet your boots it will happen!

Saturday, April 14

Cal Eagles MC run to National Monument. Meet at Daddy's at 0930; depart 10AM. Bring \$\$ for gas, tolls and lunch.

Sunday, April 15

Satyr MC of Los Angeles host the beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8, with food.

Bears of San Francisco beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 1600-2000, for \$7 (\$6 members), to benefit Metropolitan Community Foundation.

Gutsy 'Bee'

by Richard Dodds

In his play *Bee*, Prince Gomolvilas reminds us repeatedly that with its tubby body and tiny wings, flight for the bumblebee should be a physical impossibility. Finally, someone suggests that perhaps the bumblebee can fly because no one ever told him that he couldn't. It's just one of the many metaphors in a play that needs lots of metaphors as it takes on every issue confronting humankind.

Well, maybe not every issue, but the San Francisco playwright's new work, having its world premiere at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, certainly casts wide and bravely its apiarian net. After all, how many playwrights today are digging deep into the festering wounds of racial resentment, which here is not played out in the usual black-white scenarios, but which gains power for its unexpected perspective.

The centerpiece of the second act is a debate between the central characters, a young gay Korean-American estranged from his disapproving son and an older African-American woman estranged from her incarcerated son. Gomolvilas creates a compelling dialogue that lets both sides score points in their opposing views of the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

True, the exchange would be even more effective if not presented quite so much as a formal debate. But the rest of the play indeed uses more theatrical ap-

proaches in exploring its array of issues, which director Arturo Catricala has staged with playful imagination.

Using the kind of magic metaphorical realism that Craig Lucas employed in *Prelude to a Kiss*, Gomolvilas creates a world in which the young gay Korean-American is invisible to everyone except the older African-American woman. Gina, a cocktail waitress in a Las Vegas casino, is wary about helping Devon. But she agrees to devote a week to his cause, while testily making it clear that this does not mean they are friends.

Together they set out on a journey that introduces them to a collection of characters with a collection of problems. A university physicist has become an alcoholic since her husband moved out. A garrulous cab driver tries to make sense of his wife's death. A lonely psychic is looking for love. And a priest is having a crisis of conscience.

Sprawling package

On some broader level, these little subdramas surely speak to the sprawling themes that Gomolvilas is exploring, but for those looking for neat packages, they don't obviously tie into the matters of Devon's invisibility. When the cure eventually arrives, it's not entirely clear what we have witnessed in the past two hours that has brought it about.

But *Bee* is a good showcase for Gomolvilas' strengths as a writer, as he gets ample opportunity to display his sly wit and an ear for



The human comedy: *Bee*

bracing dialogue. This production is also a good showcase for the play, starting with the handsome, fabric-draped set by Patrick Toebe, the solid lighting by Orlando Montes, and an effective sound design by Marc Hagan.

Robert Wu, who was also seen in Gomolvilas' *Debunking Love* earlier this season, skillfully plays Devon with a boyish intensity that plays well off the reserved prickliness that the talented Jaxy Boyd brings to Gina. The versatile Randall Miller and Ginger Eckert play all the other characters with large doses of humor.

In *Bee*, Gomolvilas is essentially retelling the human comedy through the specifics of his seriocomic tale. The play may not have the answers to the riddles of life, but at least it takes a stab at them. And that's gutsy stuff. ▼

Bee will run through April 15 at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Tickets are \$22-\$30. Call 474-8800.

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Rimming for dummies

by Jim Piechota

Sex Tips for Gay Guys by Dan Anderson; St. Martin's Press, \$22.95

Just for the record: let me state that it was never my intention to make the elderly lady sitting across from me on the Muni train gasp in horror. I blame Dan Anderson, since the cover of his comical, campy new book blatantly screams *Sex Tips for Gay Guys* and features seamy artwork of muscleboys, strippers, and drag queens. But I held it up and continued reading anyway, because it is art, after all.

And art like this should be appreciated, because through all of the book's 11 succinct chapters, Anderson covers a hefty number of gay sexuality subjects and social situations, all molded in much the same way as in his 1997 how-to book *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man*.

This gay sex tour de force covers some important components to "make the most of your youthful gay life," or so it says. What follows is a swarm of semi-practical factoids whipping this little book up into a frenzy. Anderson uses lots of quizzical terms like "men-ergy" and "mencyclopedias," outlines a few detailed blow job techniques, gives gay bar navigational hints, and dissects the horrors (but increasing popularity) of rimming. A chapter sampling the habits of certain types of men found in the kaleidoscope gay world is vicious and fun: Didn't you always want to know what you might find under a Gym Bunny's bed ("a penis pump") or beneath that of a Bossy Bottom ("steel-reinforced girders")?

The author's tone is chatty, sarcastically opinionated, relatively educated, and as well-meaning as the dialogue of, say, Dame Edna. There is a naked truthfulness and a



lot of handy information to be found here, even though some of the wordplay will induce groans, and the judgment calls on stuff like body hair, older men, and especially a diatribe on "water sports" are impractical at best. "Why anyone would want someone to pee on them is beyond us," Anderson writes. "A spunk shot on the stomach is one thing, but a golden shower seems excessive. Aside from not understanding why it would be a turn-on, we were completely baffled as to where exactly one is supposed to do it." Duh.

Still, Anderson occasionally drops truth bombs that serve as a great refresher course, even for experienced readers, as when dealing with flaky cyber-romance partners: "the cleverly composed e-mails were more interesting than the guys themselves," or the euphoric adrenaline rush (and crash) of the "too much, too soon" new boyfriend.

It might be a little too late for the raging mid-30s, frustrated, semi-jaded Peter Pans like myself to take much of this book to heart. For the high school graduate or your basic homoerotically-aware neophyte, though, Anderson's not-so-gentle nudging will be funny and indispensable. ▼

ODC/SF

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score of instructional audio by blues singer Dr. John and is what Nelson, the choreographer, calls "a fun piece." *Spectral Evidence*, by Way, is a work about the study of social deviance and hysteria at the turn of the century, and uses interactive video by Jim Campbell. *Scrapbook* will be a celebratory work by Okada that uses the full company, ODC alumni and the

kids from the dance school to celebrate the history of ODC in movement.

Asked if she had any advice for young choreographers at this point in her journey, Way offered this: "Imagine the impossible, work hard, have no expectations." ▼

ODC/San Francisco 30th Anniversary Season, April 4-22, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. For tickets, call (415) 978-2787.

Mister Marcus

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in Washington, D.C. in late April.

The Big Apple

In New York, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Mike Marino staged his "Porno Again" benefit at the LURE on Saturday afternoon, March 31, and raised some \$6,500 to benefit Brother Help Thyself in Washington, D.C., and God's Love/We Deliver in NYC. Our own Lance Gear made a personal appearance, adding to the crowd draw. Bravo!

Back home

Last Thursday, March 29,

Nolan Finn put six worthies through the paces at Harvey's for the Mr. September 2002 bare chest calendar spot. It was fun judging with Dennis Silva, James Geras, and Bob Brunson. When the votes were counted, the very fuzzy, very handsome Peter Jackson snagged the Mr. September 2002 spot on the calendar, with Joe Bonafede the runner-up. Mr. October 2002 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, April 5 at the Powerhouse. See you there.

Also, be reminded that voting for the Golden Dildeaux Awards is in progress, for only \$1 a vote! Vote early and often.

Until next week. Stay cool, don't drool, and maintain your toolin leather. ▼

La Calisto Showcase 2001
PRESENTED BY
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Find out in this gender-bending romp on the wild side of ancient Greece!

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The orchestra for La Calisto is fully funded through the generosity of the Merola Opera Program.

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Richard Harrell, Director, San Francisco Opera Center

Falcon Studios

◀ Arts cover

manufacturer of prefabricated buildings. In 1971, the company promoted him to Western Sales Manager and transferred him to San Francisco. And then they cut back, laying him off.

So he jumped at the opportunity to buy three adult gay films and several mailing lists from his acquaintance Matt Sterling, who was dissolving his own local enterprise to move south. These became the international success that is Falcon Studios.

"He was a warm, cherished human being," said Ross. "To know him was to love him. He was a customer of ours at the P.S. Restaurant, where I was a partner and the chef/manager. It was [late pornographer] J. Brian who introduced us. Well, we had gorgeous waiters, and I didn't know that every time we got a new one, Chuck grabbed him right away. It caught me so off-guard when I realized I was running a casting couch for Chuck.

"Chuck was a real player back then, hard-drinking, smoking. He had a passion for cars, the bigger the better. His last car was an Austin Bentley — I don't want to think what that thing cost! He was quite a partygoer, and quite a partythrower. Oh, that house on Jackson Street! Some of the parties that went on in that place were outrageous, very orgiastic. You took your clothes off when you hit the door."

Holmes kept the high life of the times as discreet as he did his political and charitable funding, because he was not only a businessman and a pornographer, but a gentleman. I can testify to that, as evidenced by the Christmas parties Holmes threw for business associates. If you expected oiled-up boys in gold lamé g-strings dancing on the tables, you'd be disappointed by the subdued room at the Fairmont Hotel, with a tuxedoed pianist providing mellow accompaniment to an elegantly presented buffet. Like the company's soothingly decorated offices, which disappoint gay tourists by not offering a Hollywood theme park of sexuality. Instead, the corporate headquarters on DeHaro Street is a place in which Holmes could entertain politicians and dignitaries at their comfort.

"He had a good outlook, even at the end," Ross confided. "He said he wasn't going to live to be an old man, but he had really enjoyed himself."

The A team

Holmes' love of life translated well to his videos, which at first were uncredited. Although he was nominally the director, he had no background in film, and declared it was teamwork that got them done. The film that really put the Falcon team on the map was *The Other Side of Aspen*, which was made in 1978. It was the first Falcon film to appear in the video format, and to celebrate their birthday, the company has just released it as their first DVD. It's been digitally remastered as crisply as possible — and get this: just like a Hollywood extravaganza, it comes complete with the director's running commentary on the making of the film. The sex, with all-time stars Casey Donovan, Al Parker, and Dick Fisk, seems even more intense today than when new. It's skin-on-skin and unrelentingly fervent.

Originally, *Aspen* was meant to be several "loops," the 200-foot 8mm films which were how porn was sold for home viewing. But



Falcon founder Chuck Holmes

video was just being born, and the much-deliberated decision to release the film in the new format would reward the company with massive sales. The crew had to return to Aspen to shoot additional footage, which would (somewhat clumsily) turn the loops into a film.

Fans panting for the rest of Falcon's catalogue to appear on DVD will soon be sated. "We were holding out because we weren't sure DVD was going to stick around," explained Rutherford. "When we jumped to video, look what it did. DVD is not a similar jump. Video changed the medium in which people watched porn, bringing them from theatres to their televisions. While DVD is a technical improvement, it doesn't take you from your TV. So we chose *Aspen* as our first DVD to celebrate that first big transition."

With the past thus opening the door to the future, I wondered if there could be a corresponding evolution in the kind of sexuality purveyed. The company may be a front-runner in video production, but that doesn't necessarily provide them a progressive stance in representing gay men's sexuality. When asked how the Studio assesses the influence of the sexuality it represents, Rutherford called it "a chicken or the egg" question. "When we get feedback, or when sales go up, that codifies what our customers want."

"We have to try and satisfy a variety of tastes, so we mix it up. And if you think too much about how the product is gonna turn out, you lose the spontaneity. After all, it's a fantasy. What people like to watch isn't necessarily what they want they like to do. A lot of times, what they watch is what they don't feel safe doing, or physically cannot. What it gets down to is, it's all about making fantasy."

Rutherford added, "There is one area where I do believe we influence sexual habits. Porn does give people more exposure to how you can have sex."

The amount of exposure Falcon provides — the company will release 30 films this year — must yield pretty high returns. In Rutherford's estimates, the budgets start with Mustang's low of "about \$20,000. Jocks movies are about \$45,000 and Falcon's are about \$75-85,000. To get quality, you have to spend money."

So Falcon spends the money, and their quality product is recognized as the leader in the field by a legion of mail-order fans, who, if they wait, can get the videos at a special sale price of around \$30. Rutherford claims he has no idea of the number of videos sold. "We get a flat licensing fee for overseas, and they make as many copies as

they want. And if I gave you a number for domestic, it would be a lie." But many years ago, Holmes told Ross that the popular loop *Gold Coast Marines* had sold over 25,000 copies. That should provide a sense of the porn-produced proceeds that are winging their way toward redistribution by the Chuck Holmes Foundation.

Rutherford doesn't feel business will wither under the current Bush Administration, even though the heterosexual porn industry, in fear, recently published a disheartening list of activities to self-censor (including no male-male insertion). "Sure, there's a sense of paranoia," he said. "It's natural to feel we're entering an era of greater circumspection. We're going backwards to the Reagan days. That's why it's important for gay voters who watch adult-content movies to voice their opinion to the politicians they've elected."

Then Rutherford threw a little positive spin, conjecturing, "And the new Republican administration could be good for us, shake us up a little bit and make us want to fight more for our freedoms and our rights."

What we want is another 30 years of Falcon Studios: onward and upward with the arts! ▼



The face of Falcon Studios today: 'It's all about making fantasy.'

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PARTING GLANCES

Reno Airport-Feb 16, Ft To Oakland
Made eye contact waiting to board flt. 1724, Southwest Air. Missed chance to say hello. You: tall, black leather jacket, goatee. Me: tall, handsome White male, looked at me, as you left that Thurs. night. ☎ 72935

Market St. Safeway 2/15
We met inside. Me: good-looking GAM, said hello to you. You: tall, handsome White male, looked at me, as you left that Thurs. night. ☎ 72936

Steamworks Ken Feb 19, Mon 2pm
Our encounter in back was unusually nice, you expressed same. Wanted very much to spend more time together. Looked for you later, kept looking. Was it just lack of rooms? ☎ 71049

Castro Starbucks Sat Feb 24th
You with catch-22, and those keen, penetrating eyes. I could not get you out of my mind. ☎ 71051

Dublin/Pleasanton Bart 2/21
First car, 10:45am, from Glen Park. You: red jacket, jeans. Me: blue jacket, jeans, black umbrella, off at Powell. Us: lots of eye contact. ☎ 71050

Berkeley Bart To SF 3/7
We both sat in back, eye contact, exited at Powell St. Station. You handsome Latino red & grey sweater. I Black male in blue sweater, too shy, call me. ☎ 71089

Buddies, Thursday Nite March 8th
You: Jerry's comedic partner. Me: Mr. Pineapple. Guava lube-kissing you was stellar- would like to again. Call me. ☎ 71090

Imperial Coronation Alexis Luv
I saw you across the gallery at the coronation. A lovely sight to behold to me, you look like an Imperial Princess. Can we meet for tea? ☎ 71091

"Dasher", Watergarden 2/26
We had the greatest time. You had to work early. I'll drive north. Please call. Carlos ☎ 71092

"Red" From Sam Mateu's
Mon. March 5, "Buena Vista Park", I can't forget your beautiful butt, legs and kisses. "Let's try again". Please call. ☎ 71093

Eric @ Badlands, Sunday 3/11
You: New Castle Brown, San Francisco. Me: Tanqueray and Tonic, New York, New Zealand. Together we drank shots. Let's be friends. Richard. ☎ 71112

Sun 3/11 Blow Buddies
Jim- I had a great time. Don't know if you're available, but would like to see you. S. ☎ 71113

Fr 3/16 Cont'l 11:30a NY To SF
U seat 14D. I in row ahead of U. Tall, green vest. U let me in row on exit. Wanted to talk; deaf from landing. Prepare for take off? 12P! ☎ 71114

Ryan At Pilsner- Thurs Mar 15
You were VGL and nice. Me: Longish dark hair entertaining another. Wanted to entertain you. My friend hitting on you but you seemed interested in me. Let's meet again. ☎ 71117

Dolores Park, Jan 2
Garret, hospitalized that night. Just out. Call me before April 15th. Still need web site & manuscript back. ☎ 71115

Rancher Seeking John, You Called
Hi John. You answered my ad. You didn't leave an area code. Please call again with phone number. ☎ 71147

Guy @ Next Table Nirvana, 3/18
You: GWM, quicksilver on shirt sleeve. Me: GAM, red shirt, asked what you were having, very attracted to you. Eye contact. You winked as you left. You & I, dinner? ☎ 71118

Asian With Letter Tattoos on Chest
Looked at each other several times in locker room and nodded hello. Me: White male with blonde hair and muscular build. Lets connect. ☎ 71144

Jeff The Wine Rep Call Gary
We met Sat afternoon 3/17, in front of Harvest Market. Talked about travel & books. Let's meet for coffee. ☎ 71148

The Sling 2/24? or 3/3?

I'm the novice who got on my knees for you. You gave me your phone # and I told you I would call. I lost your # that night and would like to re-connect. ☎ 71145

Bev & More Parklot 3/19 7pm

You: Hunky sexy Black guy, red t-shirt, Volvo. Me: White guy, limp w/cane, leading trunk burgundy Camry. We smiled, nodded hello. Too shy to talk, let me try again. ☎ 71146

Tuesday 3/6 6am, Not Quite Dawn

You walking down 22nd St toward Eureka- I was walking small dog across the street. We both turned and cruised a few times. What about a early morning fun before work. ☎ 71119

~Fiddler On The Roof 2/27~

We saw each other before show, during intermission, and after. I wanted to give you my business card, but you were gone. You, very handsome, dark featured. I have trimmed beard and with a woman w/red hair. ☎ 71116

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

ISO Uncut Urban Cowboy HIV Neg
I'm 48 professional, 5'8", brn, blu, 170#, smkr, drnkr, honest, fun, travel, dinner, gardng, sports. Yu-loving, any age, stable, sincere, Noe Valley relocate? ☎ 71052

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71053

"Phillipino Men!"

I would like to be your steady girlfriend. I am 6' 165lbs- GWM. If you like to be sucked a long time- call me. Don't be lonely anymore. ☎ 71054

"You'll Be Happy To Know Me!"
37, 5'8", brn/blk eyes. Athletic, nice body, versatile. You Latin or White, slim to medium body, versatile. Very open minded, like music, movies, dinner. Under 40yrs. Live in San Francisco- and like working out. ☎ 71055

Buddy Wanted

5'11", 198, br, br, HIV+, top. ISO hot White bottom bubble butt, for get-togethers. 40+, HIV+, no games, n/d, n/d. ☎ 71067

Let's Take Our Time

GBM, lean toned & fit 38. You 25-45, fit, versatile, n/d, in-shape. I'm funny, out going. Want more than a quick unsatisfying encounter. HIV-. Want sensual romantic type. Non kissers need not apply. ☎ 71068

Quiet GWM 54 Seeks Same
GWM 54, 5'9", 175lbs seeks GWM 45 to 65 preferably Fremont or So. Bay Area to go to movies, dinner, etc.. LTR. ☎ 71069

Good Man With Big Dick
Masculine HIV-neg 6'3", 185lbs, gym-toned, mid-50's GWM with beautiful 9 1/2 cock ISO one HIV-negative NS/ND muscle bottom for on-going sexual friendship. ☎ 71070

Nice GWM 39yo Prof Seeks LTR
Looking for nice mature, sincere GWM 25-40 into outdoor and leisure activities for friendship and possible ltr. Me: avg. looking nice guy likes cooking, wine tasting, camping, music and friends. ☎ 71071

HIV+ BLK 5'9", 165#...
Seeking to meet men in the fifty year age range. Attractive to thin or lean build guys only. Looking for fun open to relationships. ☎ 71072

•Mulatto Guy•

I am every White man's fantasy and I'm every White man's dream! ☎ 71129

"GBM Seeks GWM!"

43yo, GBM, athletic, honest fun, seeking friendship to LTR, w/a fun, GWM into outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. ☎ 71094

"I Want You The Wright Way!!"

GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips ++. ☎ 71095

White Professional Seeks Asian

For steady dating. I'm 6' 160lbs, lean muscular, attractive 46yo healthy HIV+. You're bright, cuddly, loyal, and conversant. ☎ 71096

I'm Seeking Gigantic Nipples

Musc. GWM, 42 seeks a smooth, musc. Guy with huge, protruding nipples, to service on a reg. Basis, relationship oriented. ☎ 71097

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?

Shy GWM 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71120

~Italian Guys!~

I was born to love you and I live to please you. I am every Italian male's fantasy and every Italian male's dream! ☎ 71121

Semi Retired GWM 60yr 6'2" Sks

Same 45 to 65 for new friends. I enjoy quiet evenings with someone special dining out or cooking in together. Enjoy my home, pets, gardening, long walks, mutual massage, oral sex, n/s, n/d pref. Hope you would like a new relationship. ☎ 71122

Asian And Latino Men

Steady sex for Asian & Latino men. I'm GWM 6'2", 165lbs. Would like to suck you when you feel horny. Just a phone call away. Your sex object. ☎ 71123

Seek Hairly Partner

GWM, 50, seeks 40-50yr old for LTR. Must be honest and have good sense of humor. My interests include traveling, movies, concerts, quiet evenings at home. ☎ 71124

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans

Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71125

"A Serious Ad!"

GWM, Artist, 43. Handsome, masculine, smart, creative, sensitive, funny. HIV-neg. Very non-scene. ISO GWM with similar qualities for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71126

~Affectionate Men!

WLM 45, 6', 160 dk br. moustache ISO affectionate mover 50 with beads (full/bushy A+) for passionate kissing, cuddling, loners, rustic-looking A+. Lt. drink, smokers ok but no drugs, gay scene. ☎ 71127

Brains And Brawn

Attractive Black guy; smart, employed, independent, no games conservative, educated professional, 5'10", 180, 43, 44" chest, 31inch waist, uncut, muscular nice body, HIV+, mostly bottom. Seeking a masculine, muscular top. ☎ 71128

Affectionate Nasty Sex & More

Looking for a normal lonest drug-free Topman 40-50, HIV+ to explore sex, friendship & fantasies with. Body not important as attitude. I'm 39, 6'4", 200lbs, HIV+, attractive & horny. ☎ 71149

GWM Seeks Man Of Color Tops

For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, Blonde, HIV+, slim, somewhat hairy. Like outdoors, mutual massage, building a life. Where? Let's find answers. ☎ 71150

Hot French Love

French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in early 40's. ☎ 71151

Big Heart & Nice Cock

Warm, funny, attractive, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, br/br, goatee, Italian/Irish mix, professional, HIV-, looking for down-to-earth guys under 40, love to give and get massage. Call me! ☎ 71152

Seeking Active Masculine Top

Me: Handsome healthy educated Middle Asian in fine shape, 5'7"; You: Clean, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have tool able & eager to pump me deep. ☎ 71153

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Asian, 5'7", 135#, ISO Of Fit GWM
For safe play and fantasy sharing and good service. ☎ 71056

Time For Great Sex! ISO Top

For serious oral servicing. I'm handsome, 48, s&p hairy chest. Tall and lean and sexy. UB clean, in-shape, take control guy up for some discrete fun. ☎ 71057

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg. White, 6', 160#, 40's. Porn faces while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71058

FF Butts Wanted!
Make me copy any FF tape. My med. hands up your butt for hours in return. ☎ 71059

"Office Sex Slave!"
SWM, Contractor, 44, 6'2", 210lbs, masculine, good build-firm butt, kind, seeks 25-45 submissive, dark hair, hairy slender to well built male to strip, take orders, dress good, ns/d. ☎ 71060

Jerk You Off?
Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Tortured? Attractive, fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71061

Explore Your Son/Slave Fantasy
Dad 44, 165, 5'9", goodlooking prof. Exp in beginning training in son slave fantasy. You be 21-35 and curious. I am safe, sane fun and will respect your limits. 71062

Magical Hands!
I give long, slow, intense, erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. No formal training. B's and straight's - very discrete, versatile, and safe no reciprocation required. ☎ 71063

I Love My Dad! 5'9"
190lbs 42 GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate and cute. Must have fun and outgoing personality. ☎ 71064

Santa Rosa Area
Butt fucker 49 in good shape healthy good looking hung uncult, seeks bottoms must be very fit 25-45 tight ass A+. NS/ND call now. ☎ 71073

Opposites Attract
Big-dick Italian top looking for a small-dick, bubble-butt bottom. Any race under 40. Leave a complete description and best time to call. ☎ 71076

Grind Your Hot Ass In My Face
Raunch lover, in-shape, 34, Oakland, seeks masculine men, 25 to 45, for ass-fucking, cock sucking, fucking, foot worship, more mutual, or I'll service you. ☎ 71077

Tall And Thin Top
6'150lbs, smooth bod, beard/stache, b/b/bu, 6+ stays hard for you; average looks, mid forties, looking for bottom with eager mouth and butt, good rimmer A+, 55 and under. ☎ 71074

Horse Hung Bottom
Tall, lean, masculine HIV-negative in-shape gym-regular mid-50's GWM with 9 inches, huge tits, solid ass needs in-shape HIV-negative height/weight proportionate ND muscle-top, for regular safe fuckings. ☎ 71078

"Strip Naked!"
Then let me sensually massage every inch of your lean masculine body, free, fun for fit hairy or smooth guys, any race from 18 to early 40's by fit WM 43. ☎ 71079

Very Att E Bay Bi 42 Thin DWM
In-shape, smooth, clean & HIV neg. 6'-160lbs versatile- open man seeks a take charge tall, (Blacks a plus) man 35-55 for hot times. ☎ 71080

White Male Only...
Looking to eat your pink ass hole, love sucking nipple too. You be 30/40/50 if older. Let's talk, you can do the same w/me. ☎ 71081

East Bay
Appreciative, mature Academic seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 71082

Filipino Top Wanted
Goodlooking, healthy, GWM, 36, seeks similar Filipino top under 40 for safe, fun times. ☎ 71083

GWM Seeking GLM/GBM 4 Safe Sex
Jewish male, 43, 6', 164#, moustache, masculine, slim-build, top and HIV- seeking. Latin/Black guys, bottom, slim-average & HIV- adventures. No drugs and no flakes. ☎ 71084

"I Can Be Generous!"
For passionate daytime sessions (oral and frottage) with tall, hairy, hung/cut toman. Me? 49, thin-defined body, nice guy. Call me! ☎ 71085

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 71075

"A Filipino Man..."
Raped my cherryhole at Frenchy's. This chubby, blonde sissy wants to get raped again by a HIV-, safe top who'll french my neck and feel my tits, to bring out the sissy slut in me. If you french my neck and lick my tits, I'll suck and fuck your cock to bliss! Small only. ☎ 71098

A1 Oral Service Delivery In SF
SF GWM, 48, 6'1", 190#, HIV-, handsome, delivers full deep throat oral service to mature HIV- men who enjoy face fucking and oral service with no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71099

***FF Bottom Manpussy!**
Wide open and fluffy. Fist fuck my manpussy and see for yourself. Asian dude, 5'8", 165, brown, 39, sexy, very smooth, total bottom. ☎ 71100

Hot Asshole- Deep Throat
Older cocksucker loves to serve aggressive tops. Take my ass- please! ☎ 71101

Head On The Island? Zip 94501
I unwind late afternoons with a beer, x video and a hot mouth around my 8". Serious oral experts only. Late weeknights also a possibility. No voicemail #'s. ☎ 71102

Playtoy Wanted...
Bottom GSM, HIV+, ISO Latin HIV+ tops. 40-45yo for intimate encounters, starting from dusk till dawn. ☎ 71103

56yr. Old White Top Big 9"
Dick Wants to fuck hot young White or Latino pig bottoms who are under 40. I am 6'0" drk brn hair 160lbs. glasses big 9" cock hairy chest. ☎ 71104

"Hey Nude-Nicks!"
Hey are you up to sharing your "sun-belt" roof-deck- or garden with a fellow nudist? Help me escape that dreaded fog. Am tall lanky and a lot. ☎ 71105

Give Head To Handsome Latino
Trim, HIV- Latino, HIV-, 45yo, loves blow jobs, ISO any age or race, but trim. Will consider repeats. ☎ 71106

Mature WM Hung Uncult ISO Good
Sex sucking-rimming-massage. 5'10"-178lbs- strong body- hairy chest muscular legs- 59yrs old HIV-neg. ☎ 71107

"I Love Giving Head!..."
To hot White & Latin guys between 30 to 45yo. Me: GWM, 42, 6'2", 200lbs, great mouth & throat for your pleasure. HIV- lvs msg. ☎ 71108

Big Beefy Tits!
Milk em, hold'em, let me feed them to you. Big husky bear into guys who are into big tits. Age, race, age not important- knowing what you like is. ☎ 71130

"Older Black Men!!!!"
Healthy HIV+ WM bottom, 58, seeks older Black men that wants a buddy to call for eager service, when the need arises. NoBay A+. ☎ 71131

HIV- Oral Enthusiast ISO Same
Masc. WM, non-gym, HIV-, smoker ISO: same, 40+ with facial hair and 6+ thick dick for mutual. 45, 6', 185# beard, balding, kisser, 7' cut. In leather optional. ☎ 71134

Super Hung Guys Wanted!
If you are hung "9" inches or more, call me. I'm hung 9 and I'm looking for hung guys to party with & have fun. ☎ 71132

Professional ISO Safe Clean Fun
5'10" clean cut, slender 37 Asian. Not into scene or stereotypes. Responsible and stable. Enjoy long for play, kissing, jo, Arab showers, lots of body contact. ☎ 71133

"Do You Need A Daddy?"
Late 40's GWM, balding silver fox, versatile. Passionate play. Not S&M, not leather. Clean and sober. Single, sensuous sane. Furry, 5'9", 35" w. No age restrictions, prefer 25+. ☎ 71135

Hairy And Uncut
W male 50yrs slim hairy 7inch uncult HIV- seeks w male HIV- for oral play. ☎ 71136

Up To Service!
You kickback. I'll take time and suck cock and balls. Plus if your cut and hung thick. Me GWM, healthy, negative. I love cock. ☎ 71137

Seeking HIV+ Guy 4 Fun & More
Attractive tall 41yo GWM seeks orally talented 26-38yo eager bottom or versatile guy any race with small slim build smooth or light body hair for hot sex dating possible LTR. ☎ 71154

Hot Latin Bottom
32yrs old, 5'11", 175lbs, works out, great shape & very good looking. ISO masc top men, you should be in good shape, good looking & HIV-. Age & race not important. Perf in East Bay. ☎ 71155

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Taut & thrilling

Blomstedt's strong suits

by Philip Campbell

Whenever former San Francisco Symphony Music Director Herbert Blomstedt returns to town—and he does, at least once yearly—I am flooded with memories. The bulk of my experience at Davies Hall seems to have been spent watching and listening while he ruled the roost for a decade. Of course, Edo de Waart inaugurated the auditorium, and Michael Tilson Thomas has long since made the place his own. Still, Papa Blomstedt first built the orchestra into a force worthy of international recognition, and his tenure left an indelible mark.

Blomstedt remains a maestro, and his role as Conductor Laureate is unassailable. The past two weeks have proven the power he still wields over his former colleagues. The orchestra is visibly fond of him, and they show their respect with playing of the highest order. Blomstedt marks his old territory with repertoire that satisfies deeply and suits him well. He also enjoyed the company of two remarkable guest soloists recently.

The first week of concerts was subtly daring, in that Blomstedt chose music that was uniformly classical. No big romantic workouts on that bill, just lighter and wittier fare, which included the sunny Schubert Sixth, Mozart's divine little Violin Concerto No. 3 and Haydn's delightful Symphony No. 86. It may have been a bit of a snooze for tired businesspeople, but it also proved a balm to the senses, bruised as they were by the indignities of a long urban day.

That concert also treated subscribers to the SFS debut of German violinist Julia Fischer, who showed a musical maturity that belied her 17 years. She gave a performance that displayed not only her flawless technique, but also her impeccable taste. Too many youngsters in the classical field start off with big, flamboyant concertos that give them a chance to show off, but ultimately betray their callow emotions. Fischer was perfection, from her choice of attire to her modest assurance. Her

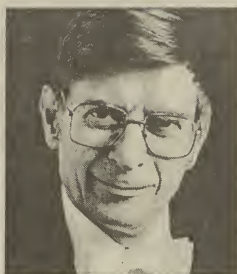
command of the Mozart score was also intelligently scaled. There is surprising strength to her sound, but it never overpowered the piece or the purity of her tone.

Hearing Haydn played on modern instruments is getting to be something of a rarity, but the Symphony No. 86 was scored for a larger than normal orchestra in its own day, and Blomstedt made sure that his interpretation still sounded historically authentic. Dividing the strings and putting the cellos in the middle lent a richness and transparency to the texture. Anyone who dozed during the performance missed some of Haydn's most twinkling humor and harmonies.

Last week, Herbert Blomstedt was back with his real strong suits, the music of Beethoven and Danish composer Carl Nielsen. He's no slouch with Bruckner, either, but that will have to wait until his next visit.

Hungarian pianist András Schiff opened the program with the Beethoven Fourth Piano Concerto. His slightly glacial control was in keeping with the music's subtlety, and he gave a note-perfect performance, but I wish he had allowed himself just a tad more emotion. Arguably, that is just what the composer wanted, and Blomstedt warmed up the reading by providing a lush background, coaxing some of the best string-playing this season.

Blomstedt has always given us taut and thrilling Beethoven, and the support of the orchestra made Schiff's glittering technique sound all the more impressive. Soloist,



Conductor Herbert Blomstedt

conductor and orchestra deserved their bravos.

The second half of the evening was devoted to Nielsen's Fifth Symphony, and it was a corker. Herbert Blomstedt has successfully recorded all six of these remarkable works with the SFS for Decca, and they are now re-issued at a bargain price. If you haven't joined the maestro on the Nielsen bandwagon yet, now would be an affordable chance to get with the program.

It remains a small mystery to me why these gorgeous works have not joined the modern repertoire along with the Sibelius symphonies, but they do demand a committed and sympathetic conductor. Bernstein turned me on with his fabulous recording of the Symphony No. 3, *Sinfonia Espansiva*, and I've been hooked ever since.

The Fifth is an approachable work, even if the mood is a little tense. There is plenty of drama, not least in the long first movement's battle between the orchestra and a combative sidestrum. If it is meant to be a fight between good and evil, it sounds more like a bid for supremacy amidst the forces of might and gentility. Blomstedt must understand the ebb and flow of Nielsen's paragraphs, and he has by now achieved a near-perfect affinity. ▼

Straight

◀ Arts cover

When Schmäder called Exodus, he was referred to a group in Seattle, where he arrived with a made-up name but pretty much his own story. "At the first meeting, they asked why I was there, and I got away with basically telling the truth, that I've had homosexual feelings my whole life and for the most part I've enjoyed them, but then I read about the group, and now I'm here."

Schmäder quickly forgot his preconceptions of dark and shadowy meetings of cult followers. "The real meetings were just so mundane in this brightly lit room with dorky people sitting around on office chairs looking at each other," he said. "I was expecting these stormy confessions and tales of homosexual relapse, but it was a lot of complaining about everyday woes."

"They really harp on your relationship with your father," he said, "and while my father and I were always respectful, we were never chums. The father stuff was the most threatening to me, and that ended up being the heart of the play."

While his mother has seen all of Schmäder's stage work, his father has seen only *Straight*. "It took him a while to come around to it because all my shows have been sexually explicit on some level."

Someone who did come see the show in Seattle was the leader of the conversion group that Schmäder had infiltrated. "After one of the shows, a man came up to me and said, 'Hi, remember me?' And at first I thought it might be some guy I messed around with years ago in a dark room. He was really complimentary, and he

brought some friends with him."

Some of the strongest resistance to the show has been from "rainbow-flag-waving gay community members," Schmäder said, "because it's critical of the gay community as well. It's saying there's a fundamentalism in the gay community that often rivals our enemies. I think the gay community has gotten to the point where we can make art that critiques ourselves."

Schmäder said his next new piece may be a fictional tale that "plays off on how we can now tell our darker stories. I want to tell the story of the self-hating queer as a love story, but whose sex involves basically sucking off straight guys. It's a phase we've all gone through, whether for five minutes or for a lifetime."

He's also considering reworking *Exploring Whoring*, for which he interviewed Seattle call boys and porn stars, with *Straight* director Chay Yew. The director of the very first production of *Straight* was *Savage Love* sex columnist Dan Savage, with whom Schmäder worked at a "bratty alternative weekly" in Seattle called *The Stranger*. Schmäder recently took a leave from writing his weekly column to spend more time touring with *Straight*.

Just who is the show for? "People who like mean, smart comedy," Schmäder said. "Cut out 'mean.' That sounds wrong if you don't know me. I like serious comedy, so I'm just taking a very serious subject and punching into it wholeheartedly, and the comedy part always seems to take care of itself." ▼

Straight will run through April 15 at Theatre Rhino. For tickets (\$16), call 861-5079.

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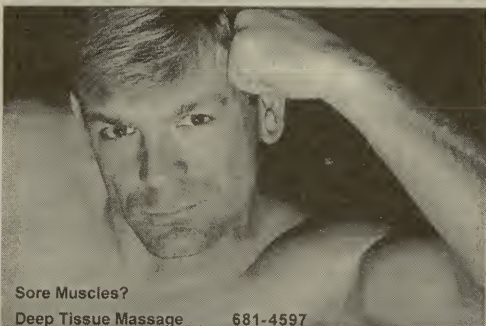
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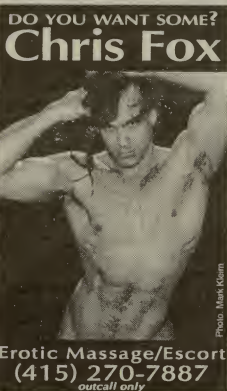
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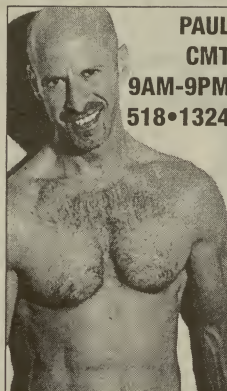
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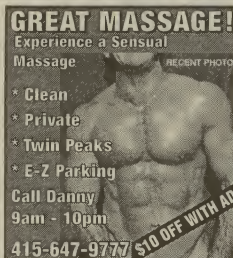
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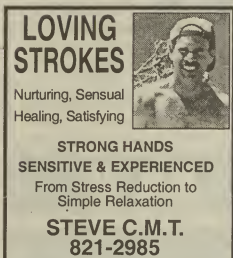
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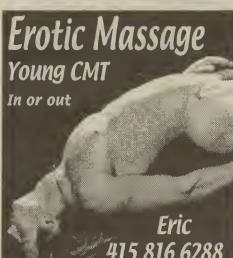
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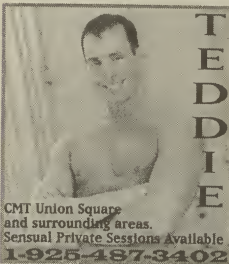
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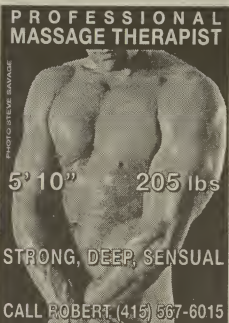
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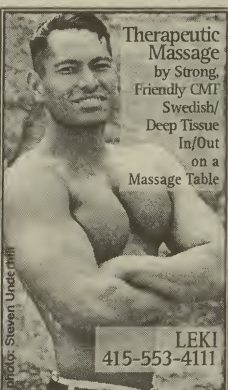
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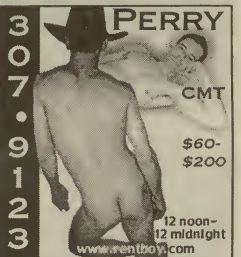
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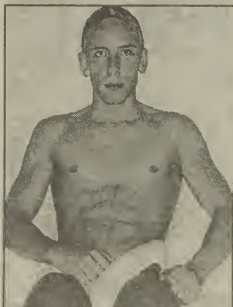
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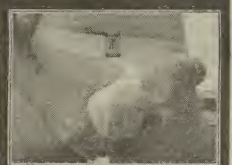
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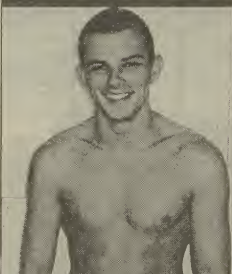
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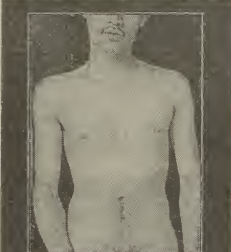
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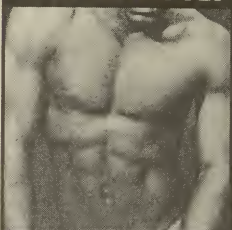
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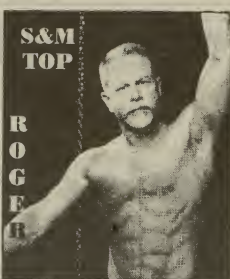
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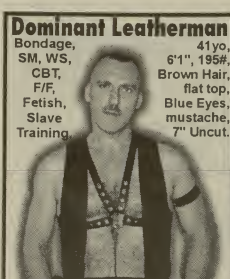
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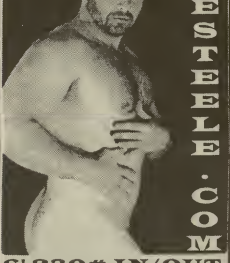


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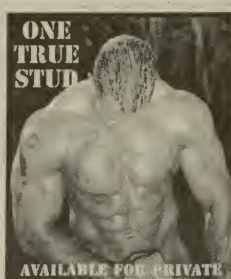
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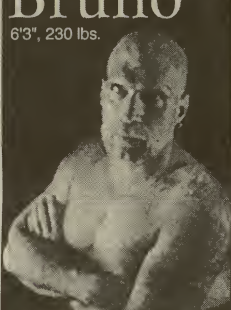


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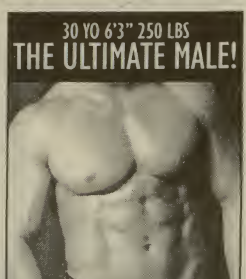
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